Focus Concept: Caring for Chicks in the Classroom

Time Frame: 1-2 Day Lesson

Overview:
During this lesson, children will identify how to care for chicks in the classroom.

Essential Questions and Enduring Understandings of the Unit:
Organisms have basic needs. Organisms can survive only in environments in which their needs can be met. Each animal has different structures that serve different functions in growth and survival. Animals have life cycle including birth, maturation, reproduction and death. Animals closely resemble their parents. We can observe with all five of our senses. Observation is the act of gathering information about something through our senses. When we observe we record what we experience like capturing a photograph with a camera.

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Standards Addressed in Lesson:
Science
(NGSS) K-LS1-1. Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive. S.K.3.E.1 Develop an awareness of the relationship of features of living things and their ability to satisfy their basic needs that support their growth and survival.

Writing
W.K.2 Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

Speaking and Listening
SL.K.1 Participate in collaborative conversation about kindergarten topics with peers and adults in small and large groups. SL.K.3 Ask and answer questions in order to get information.

Experiential Learning Model found within the Unit of Study
Throughout this unit children will:
- Observe, Keep records
- Compare and Measure
- Engage in Teamwork
- Share

Materials/Resources:
- Developmental Milestones: Self Care (Age 5) Reference for discussion during engagement https://www.babycenter.com/0_developmental-milestone-self-care-age-5_66682.bc?showAll=true
- Caring for Chicks in the Classroom Notebook Document
- Caring for Chicks Graded Assignment

Engagement
- Have students brainstorm ways that they have to care for themselves, e.g. brush teeth, getting dressed, eat, sleep, drink, play, bathing, staying safe, going to school, helping out parents etc… Reference the Developmental Milestones: Self-care page in the materials section of the lesson plan prior to the discussion.
- Pose the question: Do chicks need to be cared for in the same way as humans? Students should note that there are some needs of the chicks that are similar and some that are different.
Exploration
- Explore what each chick needs by posing the following questions below (visuals are provided for teachers to refer to during the lesson in the Notebook document):
  - Habitat - Where do the chicks live? What do they need to live in the brooder? Why do chicks need holes in the lid of the brooder? What is different about the chicks lamp and the lamps that you have at home?
  - Nutrition - What do the chicks eat? Share that chicks won’t eat this same type of food all of their lives. Once they become bigger, they will eat grains and seeds like corn. They may also eat vegetables, fruit, flowers, and grass. They scratch the ground and find bugs and specks of things that we can't see. What do the chicks need to drink? Do they drink milk like some other animal babies?
  - Exercise and play - Why do chicks need to exercise and play? Share that chickens exercise and play to sustain a healthy weight, to challenge themselves with tough dirt to scratch, by taking a dust bath to keep themselves bug free, by climbing on objects, by flying short distances to exercise their wings, and interacting with other chickens. People can play with chickens by running with them, playing them music, reading to them, and providing them with roll toys and/or things to climb on.
  - Safety - How do we keep the chicks safe? How might you keep chickens safe when they live outside? Share that to keep chickens safe, they should provide them with a coop and fence, and they should keep an eye on them.

Explanation
- Distribute the Caring for Chicks assignment to students and explain the directions. The teacher may work with a small group of students and/or circulate around the classroom to provide support.

Elaboration
- Revisit the Chicks KWL chart. Ask the children to contribute ideas about observation as facts they know. Ask them to share any questions they may have for the “want to learn” section.
- Refer to the Notebook document to have students compare what a chick needs to live versus a human.

Assessments: (Evaluation)
- Formatively attend to information that children share during discussions and the KWL activity.

Graded Assignment:
- Caring for Chicks Graded Assignment

  Grading the task:
  - 1 point for each picture with accurate label or sentence

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Grade _K_ Unit _Chicks in the Classroom_: Concept: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
Cecil County Public Schools