

Your brain is for thinking

Names: Koasigan and Cameron

18 November

Teacher: Lee

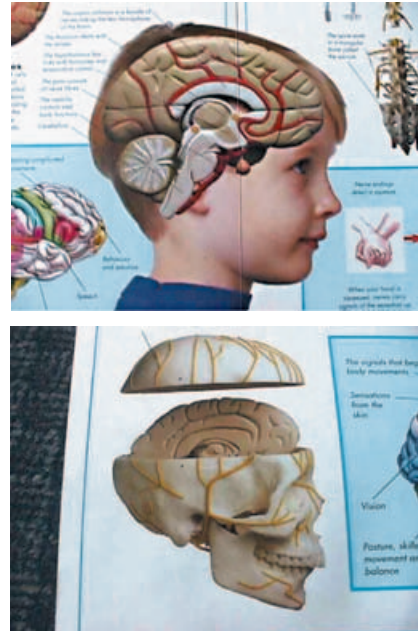
I found Koasigan and Cameron sitting on the floor together, viewing a book titled *“How Your Body Works”*. Cameron was turning the pages.

“Look at the funny hat,” said Cameron.

“Oh! That’s not a funny hat. It’s your brain. Your brain is for thinking,” said Koasigan in an informative manner.

“Look at this funny hat, too,” said Cameron.

“No, that’s your skull. It protects your brain. Stops it from being sandwiched,” said Koasigan.



Short-term review

Children are great teachers. Koasigan, with his kind manner, shared his knowledge and experience with Cameron. And Cameron, delighted with Koasigan’s informative manner, soaked up the learning experience.

A very treasurable moment!

What’s happening here?

Koasigan is teaching Cameron about the brain.

What aspects of children’s contribution to assessments does this exemplify?

This is an example of peer assessment. Koasigan is assessing Cameron’s knowledge of the brain and is correcting his misunderstandings. The children discuss what they know about the brain as they look at a book about how the body works. It is the children’s words that tell the story. This is a transcript of them (as remembered by the teacher or written down at the time).

The teacher’s comment about Cameron’s response suggests that, on this occasion, having a misunderstanding corrected by a peer was enjoyable learning.

How might this assessment develop children’s capacity to contribute to assessments?

One of the reasons for documenting this episode may have been to celebrate in writing a moment of negotiation about meaning and an amicable discussion about what is “right”.

What might this tell us about informal noticing, recognising, and responding in this place?

The teacher attempted to write down the children’s exact words. It appears from this that the teacher notices, recognises, and values episodes in which the children teach each other. A library of non-fiction books that the children can read enables this kind of peer teaching and discussion.