Science in a Box Reflection

During this particular practicum placement, my mentor teacher, unfortunately, did not teach science. I was very disappointed that I didn’t have the opportunity to teach any of these lessons whole class. I thought they were excellent hands on/inquiry based lessons that would have really benefitted the students. I did however, have the opportunity to do a small group lesson with 4 students. These students are advanced in all academic areas, and tend to be very enthusiastic about learning science. For this particular activity, I chose to do “Sheep Leap” from the Sheep in a Jeep, Picture-Perfect Science Lessons, Expanded 2nd Edition.

To begin this lesson, we discussed five vocabulary words (force, motion, inertia, gravity, and friction) that were important to understand, in order to correctly implement this activity. After the review, the students were able to construct their own “invention” that was used to create air resistance. This was a great opportunity for the students to use their imagination, as well as scientific investigation. I did enjoy working with a small group and being able to teach and learn in a one-to-one environment.

When teaching this lesson in the future, I will definitely teach as a whole group lesson. PLUS, I think it is important to get to teach the entire “Sheep in a Jeep” activity. When taught from the beginning, the students are gradually introduced to the concept of motion, rather than being quickly debriefed to simply do one activity.

Overall, this is a great lesson and I do plan to use it again in the future, but hopefully with more time to teach it more in depth.