Annotated Bibliography

Guiding Question:
What can I learn about developing a climate for teamwork to enhance job satisfaction, improve unit morale, and decrease staff turnover through review of current literature and observation of related efforts?

Greater unit morale and better interpersonal relations were associated with lower intragroup conflict and less anticipated turnover. Nurse managers need to promote an environment that supports a team-oriented culture by encouraging collaboration and collegiality, while minimizing the conditions for conflict. Nursing is teamwork, therefore nurses need to learn to be effective team players. Developing as a team player needs to begin during basic nursing education.

A mentor is a role model for a new nurse that provides a nurturing environment to help the new nurse grow professionally. The responsibilities of a mentor include knowing the mentee, able to communicate openly with the mentee, communicating standards of practice, and assist in the socialization of new nurses to the unit. A mentor is a friend, teacher, advocate and confidant. The relationship is built on trust. Whether a mentor or not, every nurse on the unit is responsible for the success of a new nurse. They are responsible for teaching new skills or accepting a new staff member as part of the team.

Empowerment is moving decision making down to the lowest level where competent decisions can be made. In the hospital setting it would be at the unit staff level. Empowerment is a process that includes the professional nurse, a supportive environment and transformational leadership. It is an environment in which there is mutual trust, respect and autonomy. Developing an empowered staff is a win-win situation for all involved including the leadership team, nursing staff and institution. Empowerment results in increased employee satisfaction.

The benefits of effective teamwork include a shared vision of patient care and unit practice, enhanced professional relationships amongst caregivers, increased unit morale and reduced staff burnout. The manager can help promote job satisfaction by promoting joy in the work we do. Job satisfaction and joy in work is related to involvement. Meaningful involvement will encourage staff to participate in professional development committees and unit based projects. The nurse manager can lead by role modeling.


As another nursing shortage looms over healthcare, the reasons that nurses chose nursing as a profession and would they encourage others to enter the profession are explored in this research article. Concerning is the dissatisfaction of nurses with their career, to the extent they would not encourage others to enter the profession nor would they chose nursing as a profession if they had the chance to do it over again. A lesson
learned from the last nursing shortage is nursing cannot respond to financial pressures to reorganize nursing activities that would alter nurses core work values which include the rewards in the nurse-patient relationship.

Roman, M. (2001). Mentors, Mentoring. MedSurg Nursing, 4 (2) 57-58. Mentoring is a nurturing relationship. Mentoring helps new nurses to grow professionally by providing knowledge, advice and emotional support. “Novice nurses today still seem most frustrated by the lack and care of concern they are shown by staff nurses, their peers and colleagues. It has been said “Nurses eat their young.” Why don’t we nurture our young and watch them grow?

Roman, M. (2001). Teams, Teammates, and Team Building. MedSurg Nursing, 10 (4) 161-163. “Current staff on a unit plays a major role in minimizing turnover.” “When a nurse fails to succeed on the unit, it’s because the current staff failed that person.” There are tips to enhance positive relationships among staff. It is everyone’s responsibility to encourage new staff and provide positive feedback to increase confidence and self-esteem. Mentoring and providing corrective feedback can help guide practice and help achieve self-efficacy.


Watson, D.S. (2002). The Perfect Storm. Association of Operating Room Nurses Journal 75 (6), 1068-1070. Factors that contribute to improved staff morale and staff retention are performance recognition, flexible work schedules, empowering staff at the unit level, and time allowed for professional development. We need to promote and celebrate nursing as a profession and create work environments that nurses want to work in. Improvements in the work environment include elimination of mandatory overtime and provision of optimal staffing for acuity.

Wieke, K.L., Prydun, M., & Walsh, T. (2002). What the Emerging Workforce Wants in Its Leaders. Journal of Nursing Scholarship, 3rd Quarter, 283-288. A phenomenon of 4 generations working together has emerged. Each generation has values and ideals unique to each generation, but is in conflict with the values of other generations. The emerging workforce values flexibility, training, mentoring, money and a balanced home/work life. The emerging and entrenched workforce desire some of the same attributes in leaders, but the emerging workforce prefers more nurturing qualities. Nurse leaders will need to respond to the needs of the generations to develop a cohesive work environment in which everyone’s values are respected.

Cyndie Mignini
Annotated Bibliography
CCT 698
Nov. 12, 1999

Thesis Question: What elements are to be incorporated in a successful "active learner curriculum"?

Authors are directors of IMP; Fendel and Resek are authors of IMP curriculum

The article states each of the four principles the IMP curriculum is based on:
1. Students must feel at home in the curriculum
2. Students must feel personally validated as they learn.
3. Students must be actively involved in their learning.
4. Students need a reason for doing problems.

The authors go on to discuss how each principle figures into the program and what considerations/obstacles were presented. Other issues: teacher support and training, accommodating various learning styles, concrete examples, heterogeneous grouping with challenging enrichment problems for top level students, cooperative group setting, involving families and community. The article concludes with a brief look at how IMP students have fared during the program, after the program, and into college.

Alper, Lynne, Dan Fendel, Sherry Fraser, Diane Resek, "Is This a Mathematics Class?", *The Mathematics Teacher* v88 (Nov. 1995) p. 632 – 638
Overview of IMP program, focusing on Cookies

Modifications necessary for IMP-like framework: group learning, extended problems, student writing, assessment and grading pivots on demonstrations of conceptual understanding

Overall, similar to “Problem-Based Mathematics”

Alper, Lynne, Dan Fendel, Sherry Fraser, Diane Resek, "Problem-Based Mathematics—Not just for the College Bound," *Educational Leadership* v53 (May 1996) p. 18 – 21
Article gives overview of IMP program; Describes support recommended for teachers new to the program (in-service workshops, one period per day to study and share experiences with other IMP teachers, team-teaching, maintaining network of telephone contact among teachers); Units begin with motivating problem too difficult for almost any of the students to solve at first (sounds like Japan)

This will be an important article for phase 2 as it describes some preliminary results fro IMP success study (IMP students stay with mathematics longer, score at least as high on SAT, greater achievement growth over the course of a school year, more active in college classes)
Attaining Excellence: A TIMSS Resource Kit

Kit contains (among other items) Teaching Module, Curricula Module, and Videotaped lessons

I have found the videotaped lessons very useful. The typical Japanese class structure contains elements I would like to incorporate in my curriculum. I do not know how to reference the tapes, however.

Boud, David, Ed., Feletti, Grahame I., Ed., The Challenge of Problem-Based Learning Book has been ordered through Barnes and Nobles;

Fostering Algebraic and Geometric Thinking: Selections from the NCTM Standards Outlines the Professional Standards for Teaching Mathematics

➢ Worthwhile Mathematical Tasks
➢ Teacher's Role in Discourse
➢ Students' Role in Discourse
➢ Tools for Enhancing Discourse

Glasgow, Neal, New Curriculum for New Times: A Guide to Student-Centered, Problem-Based Learning

Book defines problem-based learning and student-based learning The book states advantages and disadvantages to each type of learning. Qualities of a good problem are listed. This book will be very beneficial in Phase II.


Contains charts with percentages in various categories for each country based on TIMSS videotape study;

Conclusions about U.S. lessons: no instances of explicit math reasoning; more arithmetic lessons; significantly more fragmented; less use of solver controlled and multi-step problems; also contains results with comparisons to Japan and Germany

Overall concerns of TIMSS: few examples of explicit math reasoning and scarcity of realistic problems across the three countries


Summarizes TIMSS results as they relate to curriculum.
Also outlines Project 2061 procedure for reviewing curriculum

Peak, Lois. Pursuing Excellence: A Study of U.S. Eighth-Grade Mathematics and Science Teaching, Learning, Curriculum, and Achievement in International Context;
Summarizes the results of TIMSS. Conclusions are divided into: Achievement, Curriculum, Teaching, Teachers' Lives, and Students' Lives.

Goals which guided study: to learn how eighth grade mathematics is taught in U.S., to learn how eighth grade mathematics is taught in the two comparison countries, and to learn how American teachers view reform and to see whether they are implementing teaching reforms in their classrooms.
Articles outlines how study was conducted; States some results and typical lesson for each of three countries;

Describes obstacles for improving U.S. classrooms (cannot simply import a system into a different culture, solutions too often focus on individual features of teaching instead of entire system)
Ways to improve: lesson study groups (major plus for Japanese system): groups of teachers focus on one lesson and consistently work to improve that particular lesson; driving belief of group: students' opportunities to learn will improve with better lessons and that better lessons come through collaborative planning and testing; improvement is steady, gradual, cumulative.

Building on a cognitive psychology foundation, the article explains the need for problem-based learning in terms of how information is encoded in memory. Education must provide opportunity for recall to be available and flexible.

This article serves mostly as background information. It does mention analogical reasoning as one of the most commonly included thinking skills being taught. It describes the analogical relationship as A:B:C. This would influence the type of test items I might design.


The article indicates that support data is now available for some of the assumptions about the effectiveness of teaching by analogy. This verifies its value. It supports my feeling that simile and metaphor, categorization, and similarities/differences are included under the analogy umbrella, and might be valid testable areas. It also reiterates the most general forms of analogy as including structural information, and goals of the triggering episode - which will be important in designing questions.


Evidence exists that clear analogical reasoning begins as young as 24 months of age. It is therefore not just the “intelligence” indicator that it has been elevated to. It is a natural human thinking skill which can be nurtured and developed to higher levels than previously thought. Holyoak sets up a clear path of steps in analogical reasoning. I will surely use the first several: target analog, source analog, access, retrieval, mapping, inference, and learning when I design the lessons on which the students will ultimately be tested. I will have to consider them at test design stage, but at this time I am not certain of any direct usefulness of this interesting but detailed article. One consideration I have had to take into account is whether I want to go as far as analogical reasoning itself, or the precursor steps of understanding and generating analogies which are not completely valid by his standard, but may be an appropriate maximum reasonable expectation for the age of the students targeted in this study.


Gentner brings to the front, salient features in successful interpretation of analogies. She points out the importance of causal relationships in considering analogies. The examples used to clarify the concepts are interesting, but a bit too advanced for direct use. One
thing it does well is to show just how common analogies are. Once made aware of this, students realistically should be able to generate them for the posttest of a unit.


Provides a graphic organizer for students to use in analogical reasoning. Suggests that this would be a valid evaluation device which is not like any of the laboratory evaluations nor the typical a:b::c:d format, as such. It is the closest thing I have found to an open ended evaluation format.

Zook, Kevin B.; and Maier, Jean M. “Systematic Analysis of Variables that Contribute to the Formation of Analogical Misconceptions.” Journal of Educational Psychology. v.86. 1994. pp 589-600.

At first I didn’t appreciate the importance of this article. Then I realized that in designing the test items, it will be necessary to indicate options available to the students that will indicate the nature of error in reasoning, if any. I will design some answer choices to include typical thinking errors. The study includes two models for testing. It includes a few actual test items. Finally! Like several other of the studies, it depends on a story being read to the students prior to testing. The structure of the story directly influences the students’ preparedness for the target reasoning. I am not sure that I like this particular format since the recency effect could cause a type of response that may indicate mastery of the process beyond the actual level.


This article describes the typical format for experiments measuring analogical reasoning. One weakness of the typical system is the fact that analogies are selected by the tester rather than the student. The indication here for me is twofold: I need to listen actively to the students I encounter prior to designing test items to be sure that they include commonly held background information expectations; and second, a valid test ought to include at least some opportunity for students to generate their own analogies, which may be evaluated on the basis of salient similar features without necessarily expecting a parallel reasoning that can be taken to absolute completion. A problem with Pauen’s test is its complexity and laboratory requirement. My goal is still to design a test administratable within a classroom setting without elaborate equipment. I would not rule out activity based lessons during instruction or relatively simple equipment requirements for testing. I am hopeful that students might suffice with pictoral representations,
multiple choice items, and descriptive short answers for their responses on the test. The article does describe three very different tests.

In addition to these resources, I do have access to a number of tests of cognitive skill administered from time to time in our school system. The tests do have sections on analogies. I may select some of their formats; I may not.
Thesis Question:

How can I create an argument for content-based/enriched middle school foreign language instruction — supported by research in language acquisition and second language instruction— which convinces teachers to redesign curricula and teaching methods?

Thesis Statement:

Large numbers of American school children study a second language beginning in middle school or in high school, yet most of them complete their language study and cannot communicate in that language. This fact should be shocking to foreign language professionals, yet while we write and publish research for journals, we have effected little substantive change in the classroom; our students continue to complete four or more years of study without becoming proficient in the language.

In the last twenty years or so there has been a lot of research in linguistics and language acquisition. This research has led the way for research in second language instruction and has provided an opportunity for foreign language teachers to reflect on their practice and rethink their curricula. Research clearly demonstrates that students develop proficiency in a second language when the language instruction occurs within a meaningful context. A meaningful context is one that holds a level of interest for students and has relevance to their lives and their experiences. Disconnected themes like Marta and José go to the beach are ineffective for building proficiency because they don’t provide students with the possibility of communicative tasks that are meaningful to them. On the other hand, a curriculum designed around students’ eating habits provides students with a meaningful context because it is real. I want my research project to empower me and my school (I think at this point it is unrealistic to hope to effect wider-spread change) to begin to redesign our foreign language curriculum.

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<td>1</td>
<td>Davis, Robert L. (1997). Group work is not busy work: maximizing success of group work in the L2 classroom. Foreign Language Annals, (30, No. 2), pp. 265 - 279.</td>
<td>Davis outlines GW and explains how it represents a meaningful paradigm shift in L2 teaching, i.e. teaching language within a meaningful context. He explains good task design and implementation, when and why GW can be unsuccessful, and why teachers have failed to adopt it or the new paradigm in general.</td>
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Krashen outlines and reviews research in direct grammar instruction to support his Monitor hypothesis that direct instruction in grammar produces modest change. The article is not in-depth enough, but I think Krashen’s work might support Davis’ finding in cit. #1.

Gousie describes the history of using technology in the classroom and takes the reader to current times. He discusses how a teacher might use different technologies and their impact on FL teaching (greater exposure to native cultures, native language use). He finally argues that teachers need to be trained in these new technologies if they are expected to use them. *Not a very relevant article for my research.*

A somewhat superficial treatment of the issue. Rather surprising and disappointing from Rivers.

Some useful info., but really just a review of practices. Not all that useful.

Provides history of CBI, a rationale such as promotion of higher-order thinking skills, connections to cognitive psychology, and purposeful communication vs. isolated content-poor communication. Discusses different ideas for integration with various subjects. Upon re-reading, better article than originally expressed in notes.

A large volume. Omaggio covers many aspects from background, to trends in FL teaching, to why's and how-to's for contextualizing L2 teaching. I have the 1986 edition from my student teaching practicum, but *I've seen a more recent edition quoted in the lit, and will investigate it to see if there are any significant changes which warrant obtaining it.*

ISBN: 1 201 05288 1

Reading recommended by Paul García at U. of Kansas (president of ACTFL). Mohan discusses research and classroom application. His perspective on ESL students, but the concept is relevant to any L2 learning/instruction.

ISBN: 0 201 14097 7

Reading recommended by Paul García at U. of Kansas (president of ACTFL). Haven’t got book yet.


Very excited to have found this article. Authors address the National FL Standards and are critical of how they dismiss content as something of an extra that already exists in FL courses as a matter of fact. They provide some definitions of CBI for clarity and expand upon Krashen’s Input Hypothesis (i +1) b/c they do not think it allows for CBI. The authors also provide models and suggestions for application. Very useful material. *They cite Krashen, Met, and Mphan, whose work I’ve read.*

The authors address the issue of learner discourse and the fact that students are using what linguists call *interlanguage* (the authors do not use this terminology). FL teachers often express frustration that students do not say “it” right. The authors make the point that learner-to-learner communication entails much more than linguistically accurate messages. They make one point which is different from other literature I’ve read: “forms of collaboration and social interaction unite the development of second-language orality with an individual’s cognitive functioning). This point seems to support my project from a different perspective, but I think I must be careful not to allow this to expand my in a way that makes it unrealistic.

2. Carey, S. and Smith, C. "On the Understanding the Nature of Scientific Knowledge", Educational Psychologist, 28(3), 235-251, 1993. This article is important in clarifying the nature and levels of conceptual change for students.

3. Nussbaum, J (1985) "The Earth as a Cosmic Body" (pp.170-192) and "The Particulate Nature of Matter in the Gaseous Phase" (pp.124-144). Both In, R. Driver, E. Guesne, & A. Tiberghien. *Children's Ideas in Science*. Philadelphia, PA. Open University Press. One of the pioneers in research about children's theories, Joseph Nussbaum also has some great techniques for gathering this type of data. He especially enjoys using pictures or having students draw what they think is happening at the microscopic level.


6. Watts, D. Michael. "Some Alternative Views of Energy*. Physics Education; V.18 n5 p213-17 Sept. 1983. Watts used the "interview about-instances approach" to collect a series of seven "alternative frameworks" about energy. He strongly asserts that these "alternative frameworks" are not merely misconceptions "but are part of a complex structure which provides a sensible and coherent explanation of the world from the youngster's point of view. He is asserting that students living in the world facilitates their construction of conceptual frameworks, which often provide coherent explanations for how the world works. At worst these may be misconceptions, but often they are common-sense foundations for the abstract theories that fly in the face of our every day observations. Watts formulated these "alternative conceptions" by analyzing the interpretive responses given by English high school students to "a series of line drawings that depict various situations where the concept of energy may or may not be thought to be involved"