



ABC PROJECT

Arts in Basic Curriculum

SC Arts
Commission

SC Dept of
Education

Winthrop
University

www.ABCProjectSC.com

History of the ABC Arts Infusion Continuum

Work on the ABC Arts Integration/Infusion Continuum started in November 2004.

Members of the Arts Integration/Infusion Continuum task force:

- Ray Doughty, Chair of task force
- Kay Dunbar, Special Education Teacher
- Nancy Pope, District Arts Coordinator
- Richard Moore, Elementary School Principal
- Susan Woodham, Dance Teacher
- Christine Fisher, ABC Project Director
- Carol Baker, Arts Integration Specialist
- Josie Bright-Stone, South Carolina Arts Commission
- Wrenn Cook, SC Center for Dance Education
- Leslie Dellinger, Theatre Teacher
- Minuette Floyd, Art Education Professor
- Barry Goldsmith, District Arts Coordinator
- Ching Ching Yap, USC Research Assistant Professor
- Deborah Smith Hockman, South Carolina Department of Education
- Marisa Vickers, Middle School Principal

Members studied the following materials prior to beginning the work of the task force:

1. A random collection of information and commentary concerning arts integration
2. Interdisciplinary curriculum: design and implementation
3. University of Minnesota Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI), Arts for Academic Achievement: The Annenberg Challenge, Varieties of Arts Integration (VAI) chart and project description
4. Comparing VAI and an interdisciplinary arts continuum
5. Opportunity-to-Learn Standards for Arts Education
6. Arts Education Toolkit: A Visual and Performing Arts Program Assessment Progress

The group agreed that transfer of learning and constructivism related to the issue of integration. They felt for successful programs in schools there must be appropriate organizational support, arts education expertise, high standards and the arts disciplines must be taught as such. The task force also strongly agreed that the arts were integral to the learning processes of all students. Learning *IN* the arts denoted teaching the arts disciplines, and learning *THROUGH* the arts described ways the arts become vehicles for learning in other subjects.

The Arts Infusion Continuum was created to inform best practices and a deeper understanding of arts infusion. It is a continuum and not to be used as a rubric. It was created to serve as guidelines for educators and schools to ascertain the degree of arts infusion effort in ABC schools.

Findings from research done by the Office of Program Evaluation at the University of South Carolina on the ABC Arts Infusion Continuum found, “the continuum was a valid instrument that provides reliable estimates of teacher/school arts infusion and enhanced understanding of arts infusion efforts.”