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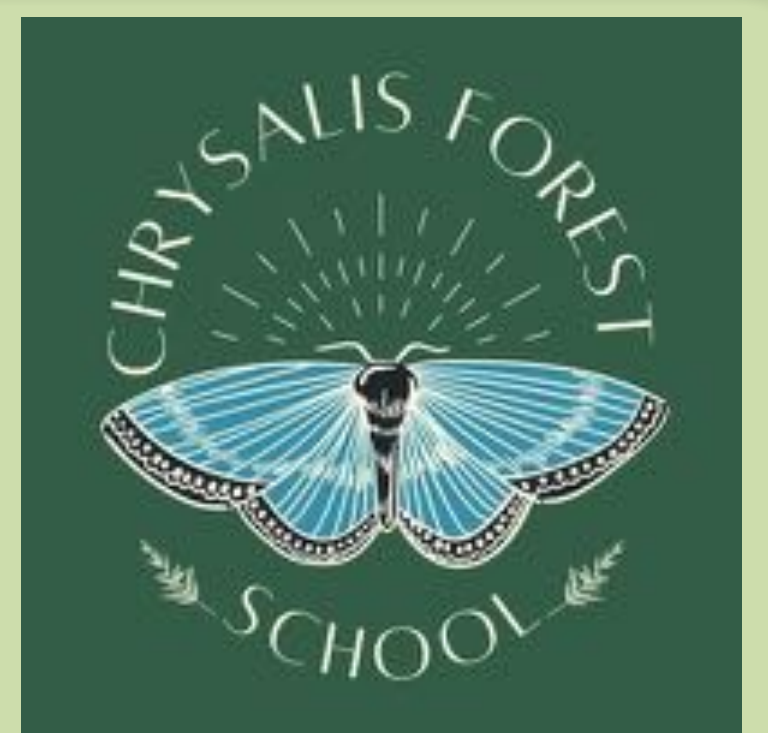
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How Art Helps Kids Process Environmental Knowledge

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Background

- A forestry school is a type of early childhood education that takes place in forests or wetlands.
- Chrysalis Forestry School enhances stewardship by facilitating outdoor experiences for children.
- I did this research due to the current issue of children growing up not gaining an understanding of where the health of our planet stands through our current education system, in turn hindering their sense of environmental stewardship.



Figure 1: This image shows kids exploring nature and going on a walk around the park to get exposure to plant identification and other animal activity.

Research Question

“How will the influence and value of art in environmental education affect youth and their relationship with nature?”

Internship & Methods

- I interned with the Chrysalis Forestry School as an assistant teacher.
- Conducted a literature review on current research on environmental communication through art.
- Had the children draw what they think nature looks like once per week on a piece of paper. (Figure 4)



Figure 2: This picture shows all the students in class drawing “what they think nature looks like”. I would take these drawings to create a survey of how many biotic and abiotic figures representations are shown in each photo over the course of the internship.



Figure 3: A student laying down with their eyes closed. This exercise was used to have the students use their listening senses to get a better understanding of the sounds of nature and what animals or forces are making each sound individually, to later be drawn in pictures.

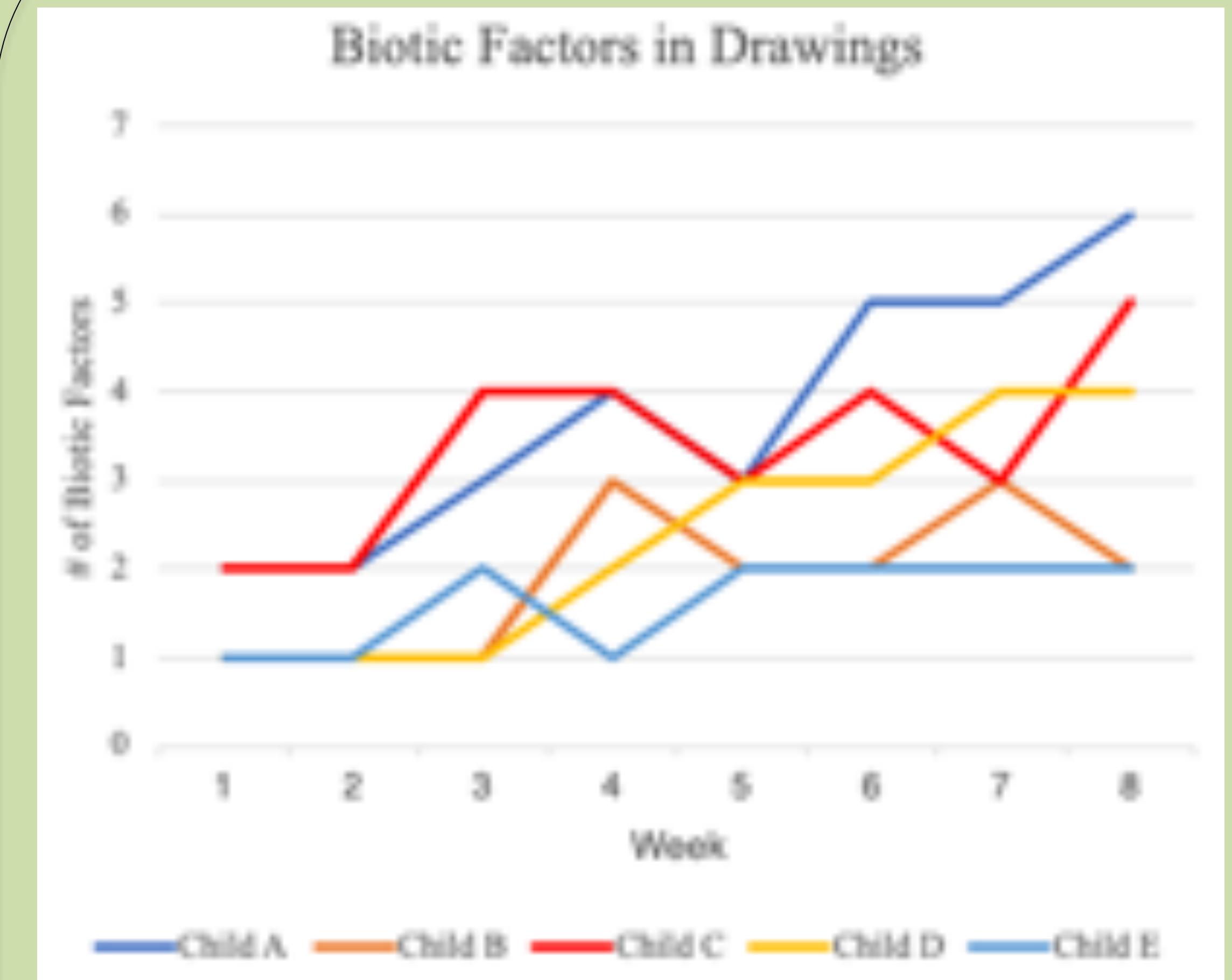
Internship & Methods cont.

- Conducted an interview with each of the children to talk more in depth about the reasoning behind why each figure was added into their drawings.
- Compiled the drawings into a survey, then graph to look at the most apparent colors, figures and detail of biotic and abiotic factors.

Results

- Between the sources and drawings I came to the results that art can make a large difference in helping kids retain knowledge
- Increased knowledge of local nature and ecology
- Art is a form of teaching that can broaden the scope of environmental communication
- Increased knowledge of biotic and abiotic figures represented in nature through drawings (Figure 2)

Figure 4: Graph of Biotic Factors in Drawings



Implications

- Use of art in lesson plans to make a difference in retaining environmental knowledge in schools and directly benefit the students.
- Consider the expansion of learning tools to enhance the growth of community stewardship and environmental conscious learning
- Bridges the gap between outdoors and art, and allows educational resources to reach a wider audience

Acknowledgements

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