

Creating an Implementation Matrix



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Innovation Configurations: Some Definitions



Components

The major operational features of an innovation that describe it in use. Components are usually either materials usage, teacher behaviors, or student activities

Variations

The different ways in which the components can be operationalized, e.g., program materials, teacher-made materials, or commercial textbook; homogenous grouping, heterogenous grouping, or individualization. Components can simply be present or absent, e.g. use of diagnostic tests or no use of diagnostic tests.

Developed by Research and Development Center for Teacher Education, The University of Texas at Austin. Available from Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, Austin, Texas.

Activity I: Implementation Monitoring



Task 1: Familiarize yourself with the TSP program by reading the program description on the previous page and reviewing the TSP Matrix.

What kinds of implementation problems would you anticipate with this type of program?

Task 2: On the table is a stack of Innovation Configuration Matrices for the TSP program and descriptions of what each of the seven teachers are doing. Your group should read the description for each teacher and complete a TSP Configuration Matrix for each teacher.


What, if anything, stands out about each teacher?

Task 3: Through discussions with your group, summarize the data for all seven teachers and your impressions of present teacher practice in the school. A summary sheet is available on the next page.

What are your impressions of the total sample?

Summarize the data by components and variations for the school building on the second chart.

Teacher A



Teacher A is in her second year of teaching. She has taught science both years and is well liked by the students. She is still somewhat overwhelmed by all that teaching requires. She likes the TSP science curriculum and is attempting to teach each unit and all of the activities within each unit.

In order to cut down on the logistics hassles, she has the students organized into “re-search teams,” with each team having a team leader who is responsible for conducting experiments. Other students in each team have responsibilities such as note taking, clean-up, etc. the teams have been together since the beginning of the school year.

Teacher A constructs and uses her own paper and pencil tests. She feels that they better assess what her students learn. She places heavy emphasis on both science process and science knowledge in her testing and teaching.

The Science Program Case Study

Background

During the previous year a large committee of teachers, parents and administrators agreed that the school system should adopt a new science program. **The Science Program (TSP)** was selected. This program places equal emphasis on the processes of science and science content. In August, all teachers received four days of training in the TSP philosophy and curriculum materials. Teachers began using the TSP curriculum with the opening of school in September.

Now it is late January. The teachers have been using the TSP curriculum for half a year. The science supervisor has suggested that a representative sample of teachers in each building be monitored to see what is actually happening. If necessary, follow-up inservices will be scheduled, although the superintendent doubts that more workshops are really needed. "We did all that last August."

TSP is a second generation science curriculum. IT was developed in recent years, and is based on the science curricula that were developed in the '60s and the experiences that have accumulated as those materials have been used over the years. The philosophy of TSP places equal emphasis upon learning the principles and theories of science, and being able to design, conduct and interpret the results of investigations.

TSP places emphasis upon students working with materials and the teacher serving in more of a tutorial role. The program is divided into a series of units with each unit having a theme that gradually develops as the activities of the unit are covered. There are a set of standardized TSP tests that have been designed to assess achievement in science content and science process. Thus, each TSP test has a pencil and paper portion and a materials manipulation portion.

Configurations of Playground Swings

Variations of the Components



Component 1: _____

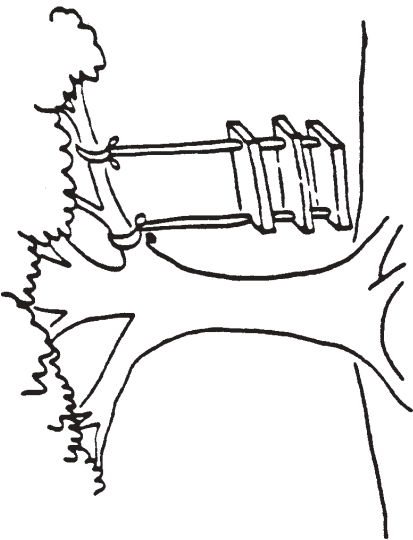
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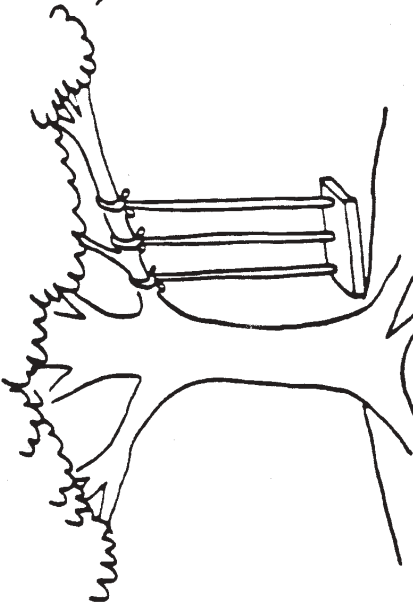
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Component 3: _____

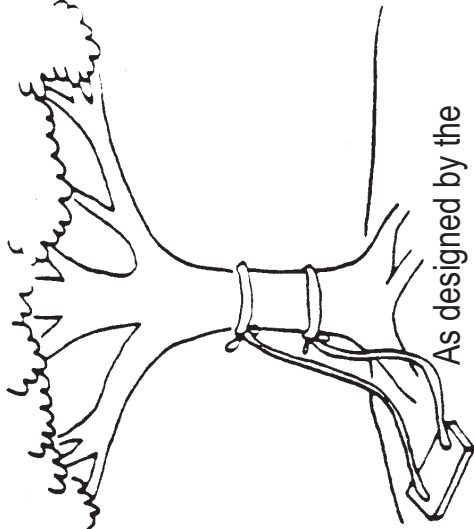
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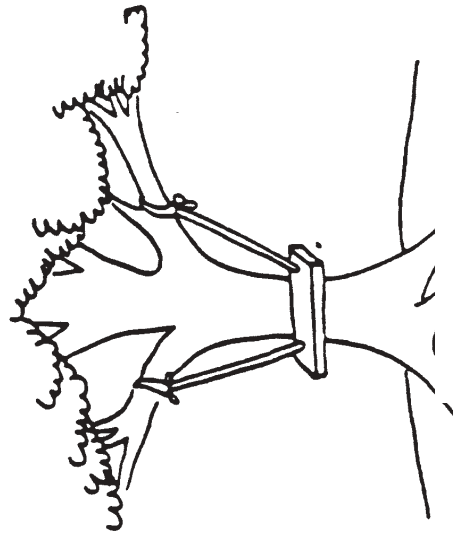
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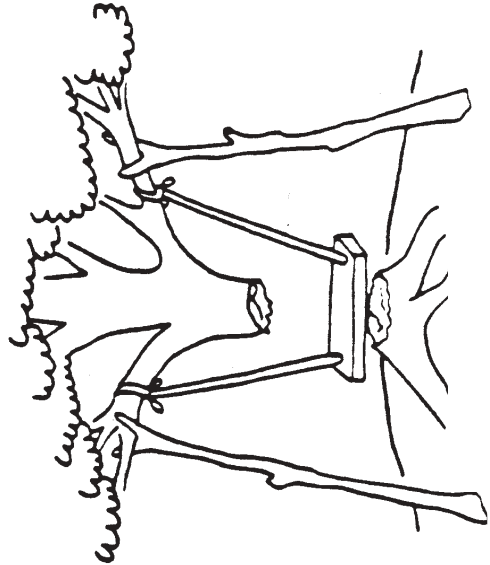
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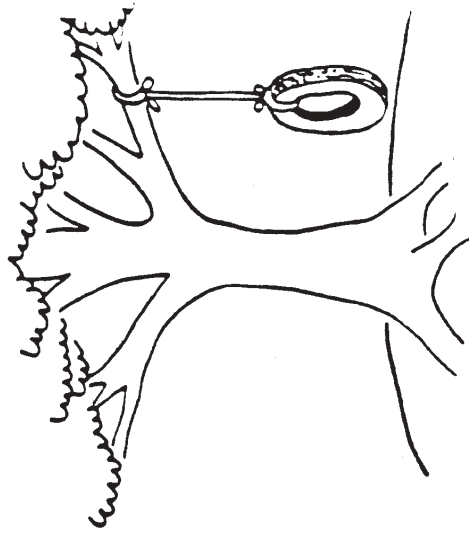
As designed by the senior analyst



As proposed by the programmers



As installed at the user's site



What the user wanted