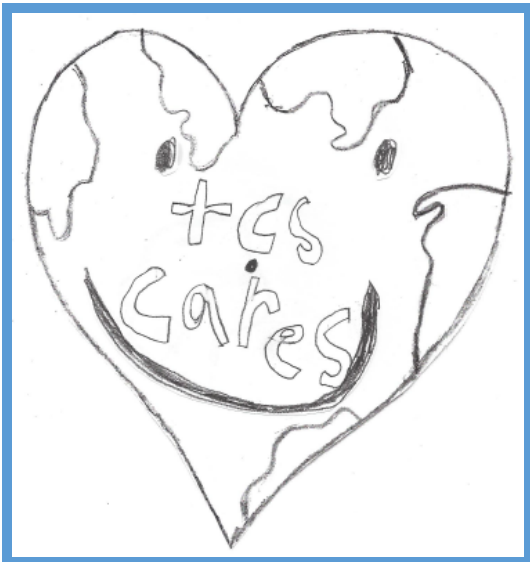




TCS Cares

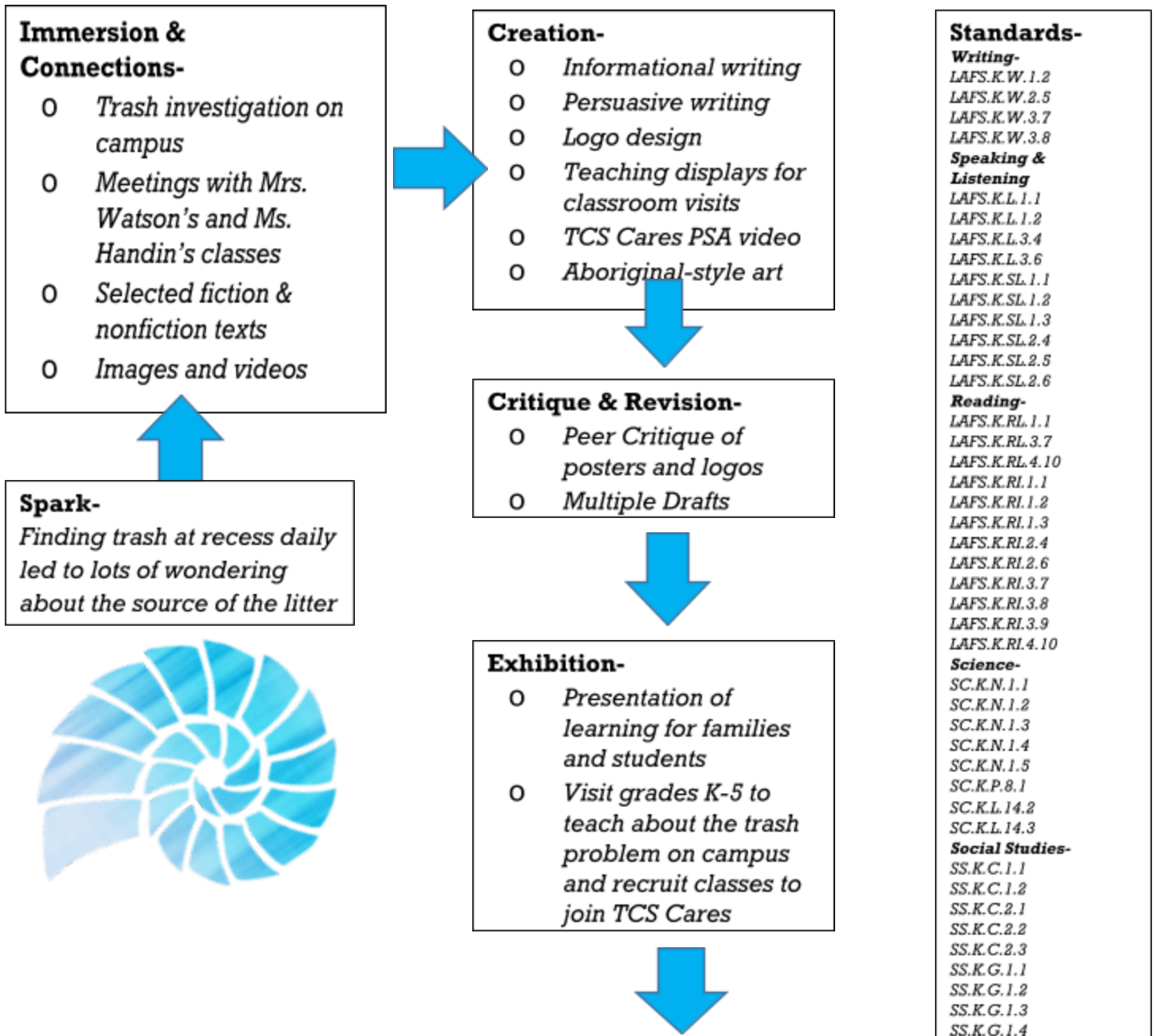
A kindergarten inquiry project
Nicole Rickard, TCS



The Big Picture.....

Nicole Rickard's kindergarteners play at seven different recess locations on campus. While playing, they began to notice litter scattered about and started asking questions... "Where is it all coming from? Who is dropping their garbage everywhere?" The questions and concerns prompted the class to begin carrying a pail to collect trash each time they went outside. At recess they voluntarily donned gloves to clean up school grounds. Helping is nice, but you have to be safe, so parents donated gloves and tweezers to help the students in their efforts. The litter and the questions continued and soon a trash investigation was born. The class sometimes hid behind bushes and observed other students snacking at recess, or pretended to journal after purposely planting trash to see if anyone would pick it up. Sensing a serious trash problem, the students were determined to find a way to solve it. Many theories and ideas were proposed but the students soon realized they needed more help. They met with three different classes, Mrs. Watson's second grade class and Ms. Handin's third grade classes, to discuss the trash problem and the pros and cons of their ideas to solve it. Meanwhile, these emergent readers and big thinkers dove into various sources to learn more about how litter can impact our local environment. After noticing litter in storm drains, they learned that storm drains lead to the ocean which launched lots of research on the local animals, waterways, and oceans that can be affected. Realizing that there was the potential to initiate a big change at TCS by educating other students and providing pails for each class to collect their snack garbage, the students, in collaboration with Mrs. Watson's class developed a logo and officially launched TCS Cares. Through the many bends in their project's path these tiny critical thinkers learned that the impact their collective voice could have was far from tiny.

The Process.....



Reflections.....

“I was blown away by how **passionate** my students were throughout this project. They showed a **depth of understanding** and level of concern far beyond their years. **Their ideas** fueled our discussions, directed our investigations, and inspired our creations. I have no doubt that they’ll remain **lifelong protectors** of the earth, and I hope that after we complete our visits to other classrooms on campus, our dreams will be realized and TCS Cares will encourage students and teachers to put an end to littering.”

If everyone picked up their trash this wouldn't be a problem!”

----- Nicole Rickard, teacher

-----Kindergarten student