

Learning Environment : Reflective Response

Evelyn Flores

Professor Cecilia Scott-Croff

Reflective Response

The environment will foster the children's creative expression and the arts. In the Dramatic Play center they are able to open up and fully express themselves by getting creative. One day they can pretend they are princesses in a castle, with evil step sisters. Or under the sea, playing as fishes and mermaids. Art is another way to fully express themselves. Have a variety of materials set up for them to get creative. It is essential to create a learning environment that encourages self-expression through acceptance and kindness. Spend time talking with kids, listening to what they have to say, observing how they express themselves through the arts, and encouraging them.

The materials provide opportunities for divergent learning. There's a variety of centers and within the centers there's different amounts of activities. For example in the Science center, if the student doesn't want to get messy they can explore rocks or leaves. If the student doesn't mind, they can wet the rocks and see what happens. In the art center, there's paint involved, if they don't want to paint they can color or even glue stuff together. Dramatic Play, they can dress up or they can decide on the props. Divergent teaching encourages children to take risks, learn how to be flexible and to use their imagination. I will encourage them by asking questions and push them past their limits but also not telling them what to do.

The centers I have chosen for my classroom help support young children's development across various domains. In the Sensory play center, it involves the five senses such as touch, smell, taste, sight and hearing, as well as anything which engages movement and balance.

Having activities such as playing with food such as rice, beans, seeds. Playing with slime and playing with dough also is another example. In the Block Play center it helps them with their cognitive developments and it requires fine and gross motor skills. Playing with blocks can help them communicate with their peers, imagine and work out what might happen next. The Book Center is important for children as well because it helps with language/literacy. Children use their imagination and thinking skills, encourage developing language, and provide opportunities for creative expression through storytelling or puppetry. Through Dramatic play children are using social and emotional skills. They try out different role plays and try to make sense of what they've seen. In young children, an art and science center improves both critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. The process of making art provides children with options and encourages them to make decisions as they work on their projects. A self relax center helps children have a minute to themselves. To be able to relax or even when they aren't acting like themselves.

My classroom environment is designed in a way that reflects developmentally and culturally appropriate practices. I will make an effort to get to know the families of the children in my classroom, To learn about their values, expectations and the way they live in their homes and communities. All that information will provide a respectful learning experience for both the parents and children. Another way is to consider a variety of social and cultural contexts, as well as the ages of the children and their individual development. As a teacher, I must be aware of how their own cultural experiences shape their perspectives and understand the importance of

considering multiple viewpoints when making decisions about children's development and learning.