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ECE 211

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### **Learning Environments**

Dewey said in a document published in 1897 called my pedagogic creed that “true education comes through the stimulation of the child’s powers by the demand of the social situation in which he finds himself.” This statement summarizes many if not all the educational theories, old and contemporary ones. It is fundamental for teachers to consider a thoughtfully designed environment that excites children’s power of imagination creativity and independence. An environment that celebrates individuality, cognitive abilities, and learning styles. “When care is applied to a child surrounding, behavior can be guided and inspired.” (Friedrich Frobel).

In this project, I designed a classroom in a way that fosters children’s creative expressions and reflects developmentally and culturally appropriate practice and supports children’s development in different domains.

Setting up learning centers that children can choose from is a great way to meet children’s interests and fosters children’s creative expression by having designated areas that allow children to express their feelings and thoughts. The Art and craft center, dance and movement, music, writing, dramatic play, and blocks center allow children to use their imagination and creativity and bring to life their ideas. Children need to learn by doing, we do not need to teach a child that mixing yellow and blue paint gives green, because he can learn this on his own by experimenting and mixing colors. “I forget what I have taught, I only remember what I have learned.” Patrick

White. And so, chances to remember are higher when children learn than when they are taught. Also, as teachers we need to embrace the originality and authenticity of their work, there is nothing bad about a blue tree or a purple ocean. In fact, it is a great chance to ask the child to talk about his art and let his imagination lead his learning.

The classroom must be a welcoming place they should be room for similarities and differences, alongside a culturally responsive curriculum and a strategy to engage families in the learning process, in my designed classroom, in the library, for instance, I chose high-quality diverse books where every child can find his culture and individuality, in the dramatic play depending on the curriculum I can have different costumes from all around the world, and I also have included “bread of the world set” for our sub-theme “what’s in my plate.” And puppets should represent different races and skin color. Posters such as the world map, and different cultures, pictures of the children and their families. words in different languages can be displayed on the wall as well as on the storage containers.

Finally, the diversity of the learning centers will help me recognize children’s dominant intelligence and plan accordingly. The centers support all four domains of development. Using materials that support both divergent thinking, promotes problem solving and experimentation, and convergent thinking that promotes one right answer to reinforce a specific concept. In math and science center children can develop their cognitive skills, in reading writhing and dramatic play, children develop their language and literacy skills, art, craft, and block centers develop children’s physical skills. The centers are designed to have two or more children which supports their social and emotional skills. This is just an example, but one center can develop more than one skill in more than one domain.

### **References:**

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