

Learning Environments Project

Qiwen Mai

ECE 211 Curriculum for Young Children I

10/13/2020

# Classroom Layout/Map



## **Materials List**

### **Art Center**

Classic Storage Unit

Transparent storage box

Classic Stacking Chair – Blue- Set of 12

Low Rectangular Table – Set of 3

Hardwood Easel and Easel Paper

Paintbrushes - 10- Color Set

Watercolor Paints with Brushes

Classroom Carry - All Supply Caddy

Oil Pastels/ Crayons/ Elmer's Glue/Glue Stick

Children's Aprons

Colored Pencils/ Pencils/ Erasers/ Pencil Sharpeners

Scissors Center

Construction Paper - Various Colors

Colored Feathers/ Colored Craft Sticks/ Stickers/ Alphabet & Number Stampers

### **Block Center & Group Meeting Area**

Colorful Rectangular Carpet

Block Set Storage Cabinet

Hardwood Unit Blocks

Hardwood Community Vehicles

Block Play Traffic Signs

Plastic Blocks of Various Colors

Community Block Play People

Block Play People with Different Abilities (Driver, Police, Doctor, Etc.)

Soft & Squeezy Wild Animals

Classic Dinosaur Collection

### **Dramatic Play Center**

Dress-Up Center

Pretend & Play Market, Pretend Table and Chair Set

Shopping Grocery Baskets, Vegetable Baskets

Plastic Baskets- Small/Large

Dishwasher, Kitchen Playset

Play Dishes/ Food Set

Hardwood Doll Crib/ Doll Bedding Set

Baby Dolls/ Push-Button Play Phone

### **Mathematical Center and Manipulation**

Classic Storage Unit

Transparent Box – Set of 10

Classic Stacking Chair – yellow – Set of 10

Small Round Table

Labeling Pockets

Giant Alphabet Beads/ Snap-Together Letter Blocks

Log Builders - Starter Set

Sequencing Numbers 1-30 Puzzles

Simple Addition Center / Simple Subtraction Learning Center

Measurement Center

How Much Does It Weigh? / How Long Is It? / Measuring Kits

Measurement Fine Motor Center

Shapes Learning Center

Shapes Matchups

Size & Color Teddy Counters / Size & Color Bug Counters

Comparing Sizes Activity Box / Magnetic Pattern Block Builders

### **Writing & Literacy Center**

Classic Preschool Storage Unit / Small Group Table

Classic Stacking Chair – Red – Set of 6

Category Sorting Activity Box

Learning Letters Activity Centers

Pocket Wall Chart/ Critical Thinking Photo Cards

Alphabet Learning Locks

Double-Sided Magnetic Letter Board

Stack & Build Simple Words

Construct-A-Letter Activity Center

Storyteller Writing Box

Write & Wipe Alphabet Practice Cards

Draw & Write Journal - Set Of 10

Double-Sided Magnetic Write & Wipe Board - Each

Write & Wipe Lapboard Erasers - Set Of 10

Magnetic Letters – Uppercase/ Lowercase

Pencils/ Notebooks/ Erasers/ Pencil Sharpeners/ Markers/ chalk

### **Sand, Water & Sensory Center**

Sand & Water Table

Water/ Sand Play Kit/ Bottles

Sift & Find Alphabet Shells

### **Science Discovery Center**

Classic Storage Unit

Low Rectangular Table

Classic Stacking Chair – Blue – Set of 4

Life Cycles Science Viewer/ See It Grow Plant Lab

Insects Specimen Center/ Sea Life Specimen Center

Weather & Seasons Learning Center

Science Station - Magnets

Tripod Magnifier

Magnifying Glasses/ Magnetic Wands – Each

Pull & Reveal Animal Skeleton Cards

Color & Light Discovery Kit/ Motion Discovery Kit/ Sink or Float Discovery Kit

### **Library & Quiet Corner**

Classic Book Organizer

Navy Blue Rectangular Carpet

Beanbag Seat – Red/ Blue

Multicultural/ Feelings & Emotions Storybooks

The Snowy Day Storytelling Kit/ The Snowy Day Hardcover Book

The Rainbow Fish Storytelling Kit/ The Rainbow Fish Hardcover Book

Earth & Environment/ Community & Careers Theme Books

Cultures of the World Theme Books

Farms/ Food & Nutrition Theme Books

Seasons & Weather/ Growing Things/ Families Theme Books

Story Wands/ What I Like About Me! Big Book

### **Music & Learning Center**

Mobile Listening and Storage Center

Musical Instrument Set (Rhythm Sticks, Bells, Drums, Cymbals, Etc.)

World Music for Kids CD/ Children of The World CD

Radio/Listening Center Headphone – Each

Storyteller Read-Along Library

## Reflection Paper

According to the book “Nurturing Creativity: An Essential Mindset for Young Children’s Learning,” by Rebecca Isbell and Sonia Akiko Yoshizawa, these two outstanding educators describe that “establish creative thinking as an essential component in every early childhood classroom” (3). I read this book with great interest because there is no doubt that the early childhood learning environment has a huge impact on children’s learning, behavior, and creative development. The size of furniture and materials is also important. For the teachers, they should prepare a clean, safe, and orderly environment for children so they can work independently; Provide appropriate materials so that children can learn best through sensory experience, because teachers have the responsibility to provide children with excellent vision, texture, sound, and smell. In addition, art plays a critical role in the development of children. Because art activities can not only help children learn subjects such as reading and mathematics, but also promotes vision, motor, and social development. Children can communicate thoughts and emotions through music, dance, and physical expression.

Moreover, the effective materials provided in the classroom also provide opportunities for divergent learning because it can adapt to the differences between the skills and interests of each child. For example, three open-ended materials that I would provide in my learning centers are Theme Books for Library & Quiet Corner, such as Earth, Environment, Community & Careers Theme Books, Cultures of the World Theme Books, Farms, Food & Nutrition Theme Books, Seasons & Weather, Growing Things, Families Theme Books. Those could help children discover the other parts of the world and prepare them to understand the word. The other materials are Magnetic Letters, it includes uppercase and lowercase for Writing & Literacy Center, children could learn and distinguish the sequence and difference between letters.



Also, I would provide Simple Addition and Simple Subtraction practice books for Mathematical Center and Manipulation Center. Those could help children solve for the action in the problem. Also, we should keep the effective tools, materials, and equipment that children can use in an orderly manner so that they can find and pack what they need. For example, set up the classroom lower and put effective tools such as good scissors, cleaning tools in open shelves, so that children can see the available materials and get what they want without the help of the teacher, that they can find and put away what they need; create beauty and order in the classroom.

Furthermore, the center I choose must support the development of young children in various domains, such as cognitive, language/literacy, physical and social-emotional. I set up the Art Center with drawing, painting tools and tables along with a variety material such as construction paper with assorted colors, colored feathers, alphabet & number stampers, etc. In the Art Center, children identify, interpret, and define the ideas or materials they are exploring, those materials are open ended and free to individual interpretation. The child may explore multiple possibilities and natural curiosity in this center, illustrates the importance of creativity in learning. The Mathematical Center and Manipulation are on the right side of Art Center, the materials include sequencing numbers, shapes matchups and learning, comparing sizes and shapes, simple addition, and subtraction, etc. Those materials allow children to independently explore and experiment with mathematical concepts. Writing & Literacy Center is under Math Center. This area is “specifically designed for children to record their thoughts and ideas using symbols such as magnetic letters, markers, child-created mark, etc.” (52). Those tools fit to their level of fine motor coordination, allow children to draw, as well as to practice skills of letter formation and journal keeping. In this area, children communicate their ideas through writing and drawing.

What is more, Sand, Water & Sensory Center is on the left side of Writing & Literacy Center. In this area, the sensory table is basically a table full of materials such as sand and water that allows children to use all five senses. Allow children to learn and use their senses by interacting with everything presented to them. Science Discovery Center is on the left side of Sand, Water & Sensory Center. The materials in this area has “intrigue and invite hands-on exploration of concepts in life science, physics, earth and space science, and chemistry” (51). Library & Quiet Corner and Music & Learning Center is under the Science Discovery Center. In this area, music offers children numerous creative opportunities because “provide music from different cultures and genres, and incorporate songs throughout the day to increase children’s awareness of and interest in music” (53). The literacy center helps children can use various books and literacy tools to practice reading and writing, improve their vocabulary and comprehension skills. Reading can also stimulate children’s imagination and help them understand the world around them.

In addition, Dramatic Play Center is on the right side of Library & Quiet Corner. In this center, children take on different roles and recreate real-life experiences, scenarios, and scripts. They create stories and learn language skills and social-emotional skills as they engage in cooperative play. I set up the Block Center & Group Meeting Area in the lower right corner of the classroom, as the book writes, “Research has also identified several mathematical and scientific domains that are strengthened through construction with blocks” (49). I agree with it. In the Block Center, with the materials such as toys that encourage imaginative play, including a variety of vehicles, tools, animal figures, etc. which can help children learn language skills, social skills, cooperative play, mathematics, physics, construction, and complex problem solving.

In sum, as I am an early childhood educator in the future, I understand that the most important thing is not to hinder the inner motivation of the children, therefore, I would provide an beautiful and effective environment, making the space warm and nurturing, so the children can take risks without fear of failure, and understand that they are valued; I would design activities that are challenging and encourage children to self-reflect and evaluate their own abilities and achievements. Further, I would design learning centers that inspire creativity, where children can work independent, collaborate easily, and play.

## References

Nurturing Creativity: An Essential Mindset for Young Children’s Learning,” by Rebecca Isbell and Sonia Akiko Yoshizawa, The National Association for the Education of Young Children, October 17, 2016.