

**Curriculum Web and Activity Plans Part C: Commentary**

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This commentary will be explaining the choices I made in designing my activity plan and describes how these learning experiences connect to the larger themes of my curriculum web. Furthermore, it also a reflection of the topic of this activity is developmentally and culturally appropriate for the group of learners for whom I am designing it. Meanwhile, it indicates how those activities offer opportunities for a range of learning styles and needs.

First of all, the reason why I chose the theme “Traditional Festivals Around the World” is because I believed it would be a reasonable theme to start the school year on. It will give the children an opportunity to meet the diverse cultures they come from, experience the context of the real world and express what they know about various social situations that arise in the early childhood classroom, and they will be exploring and understanding deeply what festivals mean really are by various activities. Such as storytelling, reading books, dramatic play, sensory movements, music, and visual arts etc.

Second, there are the following sub-themes I chose: Chinese Mid Autumn Festival, Mexican Day of the Dead, Brazil Carnival, America and Canada Thanksgiving, and Chinese Lunar New Year. The reason is because they closely relate to the larger themes of my curriculum web.

Third, I chose three activities for each sub-themes, such as storytelling, visual Arts, music movement, Dramatic play and etc. Through those activities, children will understand the Mid-Autumn festival is a day for having a reunion with family and moon-cake is one kind of important traditional food. And they will realize while

Mexican Day of the Dead does bear some resemblance to Halloween, but it is a day for family and friends to gather together to pray for the dead. Children will understand friendship and have opportunities to experience the context with the real world.

Besides, they will understand Thanksgiving is a national holiday in the United States and Canada in North America, and the purpose is to thank God for the gifts and harvest in the past year, even though the time of Thanksgiving in Canada and the United States is not the same. Moreover, they will understand The Lunar New Year is the first of the year. It is a traditional New Year celebrated in China, Chinese regions and Han communities around the world. It is the first of the four traditional Han festivals.

Meanwhile, in order to support those activities, I think a safe, fun environment is essential. So, I would set up a dramatic pretend play area with prop, books and various tools for students to express their ideas, to communicate with others and improvise while developing their creative thinking. A library center with various books and a listening area for students to learn, to practice the things they heard from daily life. A literacy center next to the library includes art, writing and math manipulations that various materials within provide opportunities to children to paint, to draw, to count and to write. Additionally, I also set up a sensory center and a music center together next to the science center for providing students a natural interest in sound, which is encouraging them to experience music in their early ages. A science center is the left side of the meeting space for my students to discover and understand the tools how adults use to measure the size, weight, and shapes as a result

that get connected with the real world. A block center I set up between the meeting space and the dramatic center for all students, and the blocks can offer students a chance to express themselves and encourage them to create their own designs, meanwhile, inspiring their cognitive and creative ideas. Moreover, I would display their art works and pictures, words on a wall or bulletin board. Meanwhile, I will display children's art works and some vocabulary on the wall.

On the other hand, the learning experience for children is through multimodal Engagement, which is through visual art, musical movement, dramatic play and etc to develop their intelligence of Interpersonal, Bodily/Kinesthetic, Visual/Spatial and Linguistic, Auditory and etc. Furthermore, to scaffold this activity for all children, but especially children who are emergent bilingual, I would review the pictures and vocabulary for various posters. For children who have special needs, I would encourage them to try to follow instructions to create their own art works. And give extra help to them. For children who are especially active in this activity, I would play more attention to them and give extra instruction. At the end of the activities, I would provide opportunities for all children to share their ideas about it. Thus, this is developmentally appropriate for the group I chose and has long term beneficial impacts for their all domains development. Additionally, I will be observing the children by the process of those activities I planned, to figure out what their learning styles are and what they really need, as a result, it is better to meet their needs.

In conclusion, I believe each activity in my plan provides opportunities for children to grow in their ability to understand larger concepts, to develop their fine

motor skills, and to extend their abilities of communication and operate with their peers. There is no doubt that those activities are all good for their cognitive, physical, language, communication, literacy, interpersonal, social, and emotional development etc. Meanwhile, it prepares them to succeed later in the real world.