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ECE 211 - 171L [13731]

Learning Environment Project - Midterm

In early childhood, it's a time for children to learn and grow. Early childhood development is how a person develops later on in life. It gives reasons to how a child acts, behaves, and thinks. Children learn through "play." Play is the main way children learn and develop. Play helps children open up to new ideas. It allows children to explore and have an imagination and give them a sense of adventure. Through play they can learn and develop different domains of skills. It helps children improve in things and impact children's learning experiences.

We as teachers want the best for our children. In the beginning of every new school year, we set up a classroom that is not only perfect, but comfortable for the children as well. The environment that surrounds the children, is a respectful and trusting environment. Us educators, we maximize learning opportunities each day. We want children to understand that the concepts we are teaching are meaningful and positive. In Early Childhood, we want children to be independent. Being independent essentially allows creative freedom in helping children develop social skills, decision

making skills, and confidence in their learning. When children make art, they learn and practice skills like patterning, and cause and effects. When it comes to being creative, children have a plan or imagine in their head of what they intend to create. The outcome is children follow through their plans, and they make sure it's perfect at the end. We as teachers need to let children be free with their imagination. Let their minds take them to somewhere that is magical. The tools in their hands and the materials they use, expresses their creativity as a child.

In the textbook "Nurturing Creativity" By Rebecca Isbell & Sonia Akiko Yoshizawa, page 27 "In a classroom and in life, both convergent and divergent thinking are needed to work out problems and find solutions." That's why as teachers we ask children questions like "what else can we use, if that doesn't work?" We want to make sure that children don't give up no matter what learning level they are. In a classroom, materials provide opportunities when it comes to divergent learning. When you think of divergent learning, you think of individuals that are diagnosed with learning disabilities. Children have many advantages when it comes to learning. There are so many reasons to have centers in early childhood classrooms! In week 6 of ECE 211, Professor Kristin Scarola provided a PowerPoint for "Designing a Developmentally Appropriate Classroom" In the PowerPoint it states, "Center time in a typical pre-k classroom, students have center time for 90 minutes, twice each day." During this time, students move around the classroom and choose to play in themed classroom areas, such as the Block Center. children are allowed to be independent when it comes to learning centers. Centers are typically designed areas within the classroom that provide children with exciting and interesting experiences to practice, enrich, reteach, and enhance their

learning. Each center has different toys and materials. These materials and toys play an important role for children. It helps encourage children to play with others, take turns and also share.

In early childhood the major domains of development are physical, cognitive, language, and social-emotional. Children often experience a significant and obvious change in one domain at a time. In our classrooms centers we provide exciting learning opportunities that provide all domains. In classroom's we make sure every item or object has a picture with a label. That helps children to build vocabulary, language, and memory. We help the children we teach build confidence, curiosity and develop the skills needed for their future.

A classroom is designed in a way that reflects developmentally and culturally appropriate for each child. We make sure that each child is comfortable and okay in their surroundings. On page 43 in the textbook *Nurturing Creativity*, "Most early childhood settings include children from a variety of cultures and ethnic backgrounds, with different lifestyles, abilities, languages, religions, and family structures, all of which add richness to the setting." That's why we have different centers. Centers allow children to move from place to place. Children inspire others to change the way they move too. Also, units of studies are important too. The different unit studies allow children to learn from others. Children get to express their feelings and personal stories in both large and small group discussions. It may bring different background experiences to the classroom, inspire other children to learn other backgrounds, language, food, and customs. We also have books in different languages, some objects are labeled in English and other languages, and we have a classroom family tree

posted on the bulletin board. When we bring these elements, we create a place that respects the heritage, and culture of the children and their families.

Overall, early childhood is important to every child's learning development. Children continue to grow stronger and stronger by the day with the help of the people around them. With the design of a classroom for children's needs and wishes.

Work Cited:

- Rebecca T. Isbell & Sonia Akiko Yoshizawa, Nurturing Creativity: An Essential Mindset for Young Children's Learning, Published 2016.
- Kristin Scarola, Designing a Developmentally Appropriate Classroom
"PowerPoint"

