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Environmental Reflective Response Paper

The environment is very important to children's development. A good environment can improve children's development. How can we design a good environment for children? I think we should focus on how to foster children's creative expression and arts, how to provide opportunities for divergent learning, how to support children's various development domains, how our classroom environment design in a way that reflect developmentally and culturally appropriate practice.

When I design the art center, I choose different material to support children's creative expressions and arts. In the art center, children can choose different material to express their ideas. In the art center, children can choose crayon, color pencil to draw, sticker to paste on the paper, draw with paint, cut with scissors, press with signet. Also, I choose a lot of materials for the handwork, children can use feathers, stickers, buttons, pieces of cloths, construction papers to express their creative ideas. Third, I choose the colorful playdough, rollers, shapes in the art center, so children can use them to create different patterns. Why I choose these materials? Because Open-ended materials, such as blocks, balls, playdough, pipe cleaners, cellophane paper, and buttons, inspire imaginative, inventive play. (Rebecca Isbell & Sonia Akiko Yoshizawa, page 106)

The Block center and art center not only can support the creative expression, also can support the divergent thinking. I choose foam blocks, wooden blocks, vehicles, tools, mirror blocks,

unit blocks to support divergent thinking. Children can use the different blocks to build whatever building or shape in different ways, and they can connect in their mind. In dramatic center, I choose the dolls, costumes, furniture, different foods, and kitchen tools. Children can play different roles in the kitchen, so they can learn to solve problems with different ways.

Dramatic center and block centers not only can support children's divergent think, also can support their cognitive, language, social emotional and physical. In dramatic center, children pretend to different roles, they cooperate with each other, so they can develop their language, social emotional, cognitive skills. In the art center, children use the pencil, glue, scissors, so they can develop their fine motors. In the music center and big group, children can dance and play together, so they can improve their grass motors. In science center and math center, I choose sorting tools, colors shapes, rulers, objects to count, sort, categorize, order, so we can support children's logical thinking.

In addition to having many uses material should also be selected to reflect the diversity of children's homes, families, and communities. (Epstein, 2014) A good classroom let the children feel they belong to here, so the cultural design is very important. In dramatic center, I choose different skin dolls and puppets for children. Also, I hang different language to say "welcome to our classroom" in the wall. Last, In the library, I choose books to introduce the different culture. In music center, I will put different language songs CD for children to listen.

In a conclusion, a good classroom can support children's different development domains, give children chance to play, and keep the materials and equipment accessible to the children. (Carol Garhart Mooney, Page 39) because tell me and I forget, show me and I remember, involve me and I understand. (Chinese proverb).

Reference work

Theory of childhood, Second edition, Carol Garhart Mooney

Nurturing Creativity, Rebecca Isbell & Sonia Akiko Yoshizawa