

DAP Classroom Environment Project

In my second grade classroom you will see that I have a big rug area near the bookshelves, with a couple beanbag chairs. This is an area to encourage social interaction among peers, a space where students can choose to move their work so they aren't stuck at their desks and can stretch their legs. They can read quietly, play board games, and work on projects. I will also use this area for demonstrations and book readings. This demonstrates DAP #1 which states that "all domains of development and learning.... are important, and are closely interrelated" (DAP #1, 2009). This area provides a way for students to develop physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively. So many different forms of interactions with schoolwork and peers will happen in this area and all of these will influence each other. This area along with the computer desks and different group workstations demonstrate DAP # 10, which states that, "Play is an important vehicle for developing self regulation as well as for promoting language, cognition, and social competence" (DAP #10, 2009). The children in my class will use these areas for playing card and board games together, participating in experiments, do team building games and a variety of other fun activities. These activities will encourage interaction with peers, which will help them develop social competence and self-regulation.

In my class you will see that I have many different areas that support collaboration in a variety of subjects. I have different science, math, and reading

stations, as well as a kidney table where students can work on larger projects. I intend to use these to help differentiate my teaching. While students are working in different areas I can help support each student at their individual learning levels. This demonstrates DAP #3, which states, "Development and learning proceed at varying rates from child to child, as well as at uneven rates across a child's individual functioning" (DAP#3, 2009). Allowing the students to work at their own speed and at their own level with workstations lets the teacher be more effective. Every student is not at the same level so allowing them work at their own level individually will help them develop the most. This also follows DAP #11, which says that, "Development and learning advance when children are challenged to achieve at a level just beyond their current mastery" (DAP #11, 2009) When I allow student's to work at their own level it means that they are working just beyond what they know or with information they have just learned. Some kids know a bit more, some know a bit less, and by differentiating I can let each of the kids work close to their own next level.

In my class I plan to have the children work in small groups that change often, as well as have a lot of team building activities throughout the year. The various workstations, kidney table, student's desks, and carpet area will support this. This demonstrates DAP # 7, which states, "Children develop best when they have secure, consistent relationships with responsive adults, and opportunities for positive relationships with peers" (DAP #7, 2009) By having team building games in my class will allow the students to develop good relationships with me as well as

each other. By getting to know one another they develop respect and many other social skills that will help them learn.

In my class I plan to have a large amount of books for the kids to be able to choose from. These books will have authors that have a diverse background. Both male and female, people of color, and from a variety of different cultures. I also plan to have lessons that teach about varying cultures and not just about their holidays. This is consistent with DAP #8, which says, "Development and learning occur in and are influenced by multiple social and cultural contexts" (DAP #8, 2009). Having my students get material in a variety of social contexts will enable them to have better access to it. When you only teach curriculum in one way we leave out the strengths of other cultures. When the curriculum is more relatable to the students, they learn the material easier.

My classroom is set up so that I can use a variety of instructional strategies to help my students learn. I can have whole group instruction with the smart board, break up into small groups throughout the room, have them do pair shares, use the square rug area for experiments, and have centers for various subjects. According to DAP #9, "children learn in a variety of ways; a wide range of teaching strategies are effective in supporting all of these ways of learning" (DAP #9, 2009) By teaching with all of these strategies I will be able to teach a subject in multiple ways and thereby support each individual child's learning process.

References

NAEYC (2009). *Developmentally appropriate practices*. Retrieved from <http://www.naeyc.org>