

My developmentally appropriate floor plan focuses on the Utah Core Curriculum for Kindergarten students. I have divided the classroom up into 5 learning centers. They include Reading, Art, Math, a play center, and a common gathering center (Rainbow Carpet Center). In my class the student will be sitting at large round tables that have individualized drawers for each seat that will include pencils, writing paper, and whatever necessities they will need that day. I have put the tables in the center of the classroom so that the students will be able to focus and work together. By having my classroom set up like this I am implementing DAP principle 8 that says, “Development and learning occur in and are influenced by multiple social and cultural contexts”(DAP 8). By having students always in tables it provides for continuous discussion and interaction between each of the students. In the center of the tables there is a tall cylinder fish tank that the students can enjoy and take responsibility (with my help) of feeding the fish.

When you first enter my classroom you will see a Parent Notice Board on the left. This board will have information as to the calendar of the school year, what specific things we are working on in class and a sign up sheet for each month for parents to come into the classroom to help with various activities and projects. I will require the parents to attend at least one in class project in the first semester and in the second. This involvement in my classroom would cover the DAP 7 principle; “Children develop best when they have secure relationships with adults”(DAP 7). This involvement will show the students that their parents care about their education and will build the child-parent relationship. To the right of the main door will be cubbies that the students can keep

binders, papers and pencil boxes.

Each morning we will meet at the Rainbow Carpet Center. This is the time of day that we will say what the focus or main idea is for the week (on Mondays) and the students will have chances to tell the class and I what they learned from the day before. We will start everyday here and then they will proceed to their tables to write down a daily goal on a sticky note that they will be able to place on our Daily Goals Board by the cubbies. By incorporating the Daily Goals Board I am implementing DAP principle 12 that states, “Children’s experiences shape their motivation...”(DAP 12). Everyone is going to have different ways of learning that work for them. Having them create any type of goal that they want and placing it up on a common board creates an environment of acceptance and encouragement from peers.

My first learning station will be the Play Center. Since this is a critical age for the kids to have dramatic and imaginative play I have a big stage that they are able to use and various other bins such as dress up clothes, blocks, fake food, etc. for them to use however they would like. This would fall under DAP principle 10, where it states “Play is an important vehicle for the developing self-regulation as well as for promoting language, cognition, and social competence”(DAP 10).

My second station is the Reading Center. Much of the Utah Core Curriculum for Language Arts focuses on students interpreting the reading, identifying the author, and predicting the story. This center has a giant carpet with the Alphabet on it and bean bags as well. At the beginning of the school year we will do an Art project to make clouds that we will hang in our writing center for the students to make it their own. Because the

students will not be able to read proficiently on their own until the end of the school year I will be having them sit on the carpet while I read to them asking multiple questions and engaging them in the books.

I then have the Art/Extra Space Center. This can also be a Science Center than we can play around with different things in because there are two big tables for lots of room for activities. In this Art Center there will be giant sticky notes that the students can use for any topic or subject or project that we are working on, especially if it is group work, which most of the things done in my class will be. There are walls that divide each of the sections in my classroom; these are places that the giant sticky notes may go. They can include classroom rules that the students think are important or they can include different types of art or worksheets that they are proud of. I think that by implementing this and encouraging the students to praise one another would fall under DAP principle 5 that states “Early experiences have profound effects.....”(DAP 5). Because they are so young I want them to have positive experiences with their peers. I want them to know how to give a compliment and have healthy confrontational strategies that they can implement at school and home. By boosting self-confidence the students will hopefully be excited about school and feel safe at the same time.

The Utah Core Curriculum for math mainly focuses on counting and numbers. I have placed a huge manipulative bin in the Match Center that the children can use to give them various examples to use. I think that math tends to have a negative connection to a lot of students early on. I want my students to relate math to the world. By letting them discover various things on their own I think that they will be more likely to make

connections to help them truly understand what is being taught. For example, having things in the Math Center that the students can relate to. If a girl really enjoys food I want there to be a bin full of fake food that she can use to count and determine on her own how many banana's there are in the bin and so on. This involvement with real world relations would fall under the DAP principle 9 which states "Always mentally active in seeking to understand the world around them..."(DAP 9). The key for children to truly understand various things they have to learn is to link it to their prior knowledge of the world.

Lastly I have a Teacher Corner in the classroom. I don't really believe in the teacher always being at their desk. In my classroom I will be constantly engaging with the students and encouraging them to ask questions. In my teaching corner I have a Jelly Bean Table that has seats that the students are welcome to sit at when they have questions or need help on different things. I like this because it is an inviting environment.

By allowing students to engage in various activities throughout my classroom I think that they will have multiple opportunities to achieve their individual goals and feel comfortable while doing it. I think that my DAP classroom is inviting and will provide the students with numerous ways to improve their own learning and to make connections.

Works Cited

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