Welcome to CCEI450P1

In CCEI450A and CCEI450B, participants learned how to design, maintain, and improve a variety of learning centers. Evaluation plays an important role in helping teachers make decisions about when and how to modify learning centers.

Course Objectives:

By completing the activities and successfully responding to assessment questions, participants will meet the following objectives:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the principles and recommended practices associated with effective learning centers
- Demonstrate the ability to determine whether the layout, materials, and other components of a learning center are developmentally appropriate
- Demonstrate knowledge of the principals associated with successful transitions

To complete this course you will need access to a single child care center with at least four learning centers. Observe children during center time. Sit in an area where you can easily observe children at the center without distracting them from their activities. You should observe several different children at several learning centers, so your observations may need to be conducted in short intervals over the course of several days. Be sure to stay through a transition time where the children transition between activities. Make notes that will help you answer the assessment questions, in which you will be evaluating the learning centers.

Observation Activities

To complete the following activities you will evaluate four learning centers within a single child care center. You must observe four learning centers. The learning centers may be located in one or more classrooms, but all observations should take place within the same child care facility. For each question, be sure to include the information about your observation(s), in addition to the evaluation: Name and address of the child care center at which observation took place, time(s) and date(s) of observation, age of children, number of children and adults present, a brief description of what was going on at the learning center during the observation period.

Briefly describe the equipment, layout, decorations, and other design elements that were present. Write an evaluation of that learning center considering the following: adequacy of materials, condition of materials, safety and developmental appropriateness, organization, children’s interest, etc. Be sure to point out what is good and what can be improved.

In evaluating each learning center, consider the following questions as a guide to assist you in knowing what to look for. Use evidence from your observations to support points made in your evaluation. For instance, if you are answering the first question, you should be able to explain how you know the center appealed (or did not appeal) to children.

Does this center appeal to the children in this classroom?

Does the center contain enough materials for four to six children?

Is the center effectively organized and do the materials have easy-to-read labels?

Are the materials open-ended and appropriate for children with different skill levels?

Does the center encourage children to actively engage with the materials?

Are the children cooperating on projects at this center?

Do the children discuss the center and activities with each other?

Do the children engage in complex play at this center or do they quickly move on?
Are the children using materials in new ways?

What could be done to elevate this center to the next level?

**ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS**

It is recommended that you prepare the answers to the assessment questions in a word processor prior to logging in, then you can copy and paste them into the proper areas. Your answers should be in paragraph form and be well thought out.

1) Learning center #1 information and evaluation

2) Learning center #2 information and evaluation

3) Learning center #3 information and evaluation

4) Learning center #4 information and evaluation

5) Describe the transitions between centers that you observed. What things were done well and what things could have been done better?
References:


"Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children from Birth through Age 8" (2009, 3d ed.) NAEYC, Sue Bredekamp and Carol Copple, Washington D.C.


