South Dakota State University

ECE 361: Methods and Materials in Early Childhood Education

Concepts addressed in this course: *Factors and situations that are likely to promote or diminish student’s motivation to learn, and how to help students to become self-motivated*

Students should refer to:

“To feel a sense of belonging, to be a part of a larger endeavor, to share meanings these are the rights of everyone involved in the educational process, whether teachers, children, or parents. In our schools, the active participation of the families and collegiality among staff and children working in groups is essential.” Carlina Rinaldi, *The Hundred Languages of Children*

Specifically, students should review:
I. Environment for Learning
   a. Creating a Learning Community
      i. Organization of classroom
      ii. Children’s identity in classroom
      iii. Children’s contributions to the classroom
      iv. Supporting relationships with other children and adults
   b. Partnering with Families
      i. Family-centered approach
      ii. Barriers to parent involvement
      iii. Creating partnerships with parents – real contributions

II. Choosing Instructional Strategies within Contexts
   a. Consider – classroom make-up of children (culture, children’s current issues)
   b. Consider – learning styles
   c. Consider – Bronfenbrennor’s Ecological Model of Learning – what are the contextual influences?
   d. Consider - adaptations for children with differing abilities

III. Accommodations for Differing Learning Styles
   a. Accommodations for visual abilities – pictorial schedules and routine charts, seating closer to teacher, removing clutter from areas of the classroom, visually stimulating environment, but not overly so, etc.
   b. Accommodations for auditory abilities – seating closer to teacher, sensitivity to background noises, etc.
   c. Accommodations for kinesthetic abilities – avoid sitting to stretches of time, combine movement with other content areas, if needed – have two spaces which child may travel between (if desks are used)

Helpful websites include:
Creating Learning Communities:  [http://www.creatinglearningcommunities.org/](http://www.creatinglearningcommunities.org/)
[http://pt3.nl.edu/paquetteryanwebquest.pdf](http://pt3.nl.edu/paquetteryanwebquest.pdf)

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