South Dakota State University

ECE 361: Methods and Materials in Early Childhood Education

Concepts addressed in this course: Learning centers

Students should refer to:

Specifically, students should review:
I. Importance of Learning Centers
   a. Active learning
   b. Facilitate repetitive experiences (learning cycle)
   c. Extends children’s abilities/skills in individualized fashion
   d. Provides environment for cooperative learning
   e. Incorporates children’s interests
   f. Frees teachers up for more individualized instructions
   g. Makes better use of resources
   h. Facilitates teaching to varied learning styles

II. Learning Center Considerations
   a. Definition
   b. Size
   c. Boundaries and traffic flow
   d. Noise level
   e. Play slot number to allow for choice in play

III. Types of Learning Centers
   a. Self-directed discovery
   b. Self-directed, self-corrected
   c. Teacher-instructed, exploration
   d. Teacher-directed, process guided

IV. Learning Center Organization
   a. Materials choice
   b. Orderliness on shelf - placement
   c. Labeling for clean up – visual cues

V. Kinds of Learning Centers
   a. Meet all developmental domains
   b. Work within all content areas

VI. Uses for Learning Centers
   a. During choice time
   b. During workshops
   c. During guided reading block

Development of this review sheet was made possible by funding from the US Department of Education through South Dakota’s EveryTeacher Teacher Quality Enhancement grant.