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**UNIT:** Curriculum Planning**LESSON:** Learning Centers

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**COMPETENCIES:**

1. Students will identify and explain the various types of learning centers used in a child care center.
  2. Students will observe and evaluate the learning centers used at a child care center.
  3. Discuss activities which involve various developmental areas.
  4. Prepare and implement clearly defined stage appropriate activities and teaching aids.
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**OVERVIEW/SUMMARY:**

The physical arrangement of the child care facility and the learning centers play an important role in the education of young children.

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**MOTIVATOR:**

A very important part of a child care facility is to stimulate learning within the children. A young child's attention span is very short. Therefore, the learning activities must be geared toward the attention span of the children. This requires that several different learning opportunities take place each day. A learning center is simply an activity that has been planned for the children. There are many types of learning activities. Today we will review the types of learning activities provided in child care facilities. (The teacher should have set up several learning centers and then allow the students to rotate through the centers, as a child in a child care center would.)

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**LESSON OPTIONS/SUPPLIES:**

**TEACHER NOTE:** Throughout this lesson the idea of flexibility on the part of the teacher is a vital concept to teach. If the teacher is not flexible enough to adapt to the needs of the students, the learning centers will not be successful.

**OPTION 1--CDA I**

**LEARNING CENTERS:** Review this basic information with students or have students read the information as an individual packet.

**OPTION 2--CDA I**

**BRAINSTORMING:** Divide the class into small groups. Have each group brainstorm ideas that could be used in each type of learning center. (You may wish to use the handout, "USE YOUR BRAIN--LEARNING CENTERS".) Compile the lists on the chalkboard and have the students keep this information for future reference.

**OPTION 3**

**MAP:** Provide a map of the center in which the students will be working. Have the students label the appropriate learning areas.

**OPTION 4**

**OBSERVATION:** Visit a local child care facility and identify the learning areas by drawing a map of the child care facility.

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**OPTION 5**

**TEXTBOOK READING:** Read the corresponding information from your textbook and answer the questions.

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**RESOURCES:**

Creative Activities for Young Children, Fourth Edition, Mary Mayesky ISBN # 0-8273-3958-5, Delmar Publishers, Inc.

The Creative Curriculum for Early Childhood, Second Printing  
Diane Trister Dodge, ISBN 0-960289-1-6, Previously ISBN 0-034362-27-0, Teaching Strategies, Inc.

A Guide for Supervisors and Trainers on Implementing (The Creative Curriculum),  
Diane Trister Dodge, ISBN 0-9602892-0-8, Teaching Strategies, Inc.

Creative Resources for the Early Childhood Classroom, Judith Herr and Yvonne Libby,  
Delmar Publishers, Inc., ISBN 0-8274-3603-9