
UNIT: Child Care Lab**LESSON:** Learning Centers/Room Arrangement

COMPETENCIES:

1. Identify and explain the various types of learning centers used in a preschool. (Option 1)
 2. Observe and evaluate the learning centers used at a preschool. (Option 4)
 3. Explain the importance of room arrangement in a preschool. (Option 2)
 4. Observe and evaluate the room arrangement in a preschool. (Options 3 and 6)
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OVERVIEW/SUMMARY:

Learning centers are the basic tool that makes a preschool work. If you tried to entertain all the children by doing the same thing, it would turn into chaos. Learning centers provide children with various stimulus to learn and grow.

MOTIVATOR:

To make the learning centers relate with one another, a theme for the day or week should be chosen. Divide the class into small groups. Have each group brainstorm ideas of themes that could be used. Compile the list and give it to the class. (Some ideas are animals, birds, clothing, color, the community, community helpers, days of the week, families, food, growing things, health and cleanliness, holidays, homes, machines, music, opposites, safety, science, seasons, shapes, sound, time, transportation, and weather.)

LESSON OPTIONS/SUPPLIES:

TEACHER NOTE: If you are teaching all of the following options, you will probably want to combine Options 3 and 5. This way students can complete both observations at the same time.

OPTION 1--Competency 1--CDA I, 3-Space

ACTIVITY OR LEARNING CENTERS: Explain the teacher information "Activity or Learning Centers." Divide the class into groups and have each group create a new learning center. Share their ideas with the class.

OPTION 2--Competency 3--CDA I, 3-Space

ROOM ARRANGEMENT OVERVIEW: Using the transparency "Room Arrangement," review the basic rules and suggestions of room arrangement. Have students complete their own room arrangement using the handout, "My Preschool."

OPTION 3--Competency 4

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

OPTION 4--Competency 2

OBSERVATION: Visit a local preschool lab and identify the learning areas by drawing a map of the preschool.

OPTION 6--Competency 4

OBSERVATION: Visit a local preschool lab and evaluate the room arrangement for its effectiveness (use "Room Arrangement Evaluation Form").

RESOURCES:

The Creative Curriculum for Early Childhood, by Diane Trister Dodge,
ISBN 0-934362-27-0