Features of an Effective Learning Environment

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1.0 Introduction

An interactive teaching and learning station consists of a digital whiteboard, a document camera, personal student input devices, a wireless keyboard/mouse, and on-demand online resources. These combined tools allow for a rich teaching/learning environment that includes dynamic and interactive engagement that guides classroom discussion (Smith, 1996).

The best learning environment is one of high challenge and low stress and for the learning to be effective, the environment must be conducive for learning and thus allowing the pupils space and time to interact within the learning and teaching process. Creation and maintenance of a stimulating learning environment can be achieved through effective classroom organization, interaction and a climate of innovation. Brighouse & Woods (1999) revealed that:

- Ritualized and patterned positive teacher behavior influences the child performance.

- Constant and varied exposure to new material encourages quicker and deeper learning.

- Differentiated structures are necessary for effective individualized learning.

- Music can be used to improve, recall as well as create the chosen learning environment.

Features of an effective learning environment

One of the most important tasks for a teacher is the creation of an effective learning environment. There are many factors that are involved in creating an effective learning environment. These include the following:.

Teachers' Knowledge

Teachers should have thorough knowledge of the subjects they are teaching to bring out quality in education. They are interested in the subjects that they teach, are usually able to show the need for their subjects, and they consider the success of their students important. A teacher's knowledge of their subject matter is very important factor in that teacher's effectiveness. A teacher with a high level of knowledge can usually explain a subject better to students (Excellence and Enjoyment: learning and teaching in the primary years, 2004).

Role modeling

Teachers should act as a good role model for students as they can show that learning their subjects is necessary and possibly fun. A teacher should also be interested in their subject matter. Development materials for The Standards Site claim that teachers should "Inspire learning through passion for the subject. This includes: bringing the subject alive; and making it relevant to learners' wider goals and concerns" (Excellence and Enjoyment: learning and teaching in the primary years, 2004).

Setting high standards

Teachers should consider it very important that their students succeed. They should set high standards, and they should also be able to help any students that have minor troubles in the school.

Control over classroom

The Primary National Strategy Report said that schools should "improve the tracking of pupils' progress and make best use of available data to identify underachievement and take early and rigorous action" (Primary National Strategy: An evaluation of its impact on primary schools 2004/05, 2005), and "take greater responsibility for tackling the issues that underpin fluctuating standards" (Primary National Strategy: An evaluation of its impact on primary schools 2004/05, 2005). Teachers should always take control of the classroom or If they fail to do this, most students will not be able to learn effectively. There also will be severe disciplinary problems, and some students might be threatened. All students should be treated equally in order to archive effective learning in schools. If teachers play favorites or practice discriminatory behavior, many students will dislike them, and the education of the students that are discriminated against will suffer. Discrimination by teachers can also lead to legal problems for the schools. (New Arrivals Excellence Program Guide, 2007)

Maintaining Effective Teaching

If students are taught effectively, they will achieve at high levels, become more interested in learning, and cause fewer disciplinary problems. A poor learning environment in a primary school can severely harm the intellectual development of children. A teacher should plan to

create an effective learning environment wherever they teach. Better Planning is important- the report on the success of the Primary National Strategy claimed that "In almost all schools, leadership and management are satisfactory or better. In most cases, head teachers and subject leaders are committed to improving provision, raising standards and supporting the continuing professional development of staff. However, long standing weaknesses in a few persist, with underachievement not being tackled rigorously enough" (Primary National Strategy: An evaluation of its impact on primary schools 2004/05, 2005).

Conclusion

It is therefore evident that, a rich environment for learning should ensure that the resources are appropriate, accessible, identifiable and relevant to children's learning needs. The environment should also support pupils to become independent and active learners. The teacher most important task is to create an effective learning environment. Finally, if the classroom is an effective learning environment, students will achieve more and have more positive attitudes towards education.

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