



Strategic Design of Classroom Environments for Optimal Learning

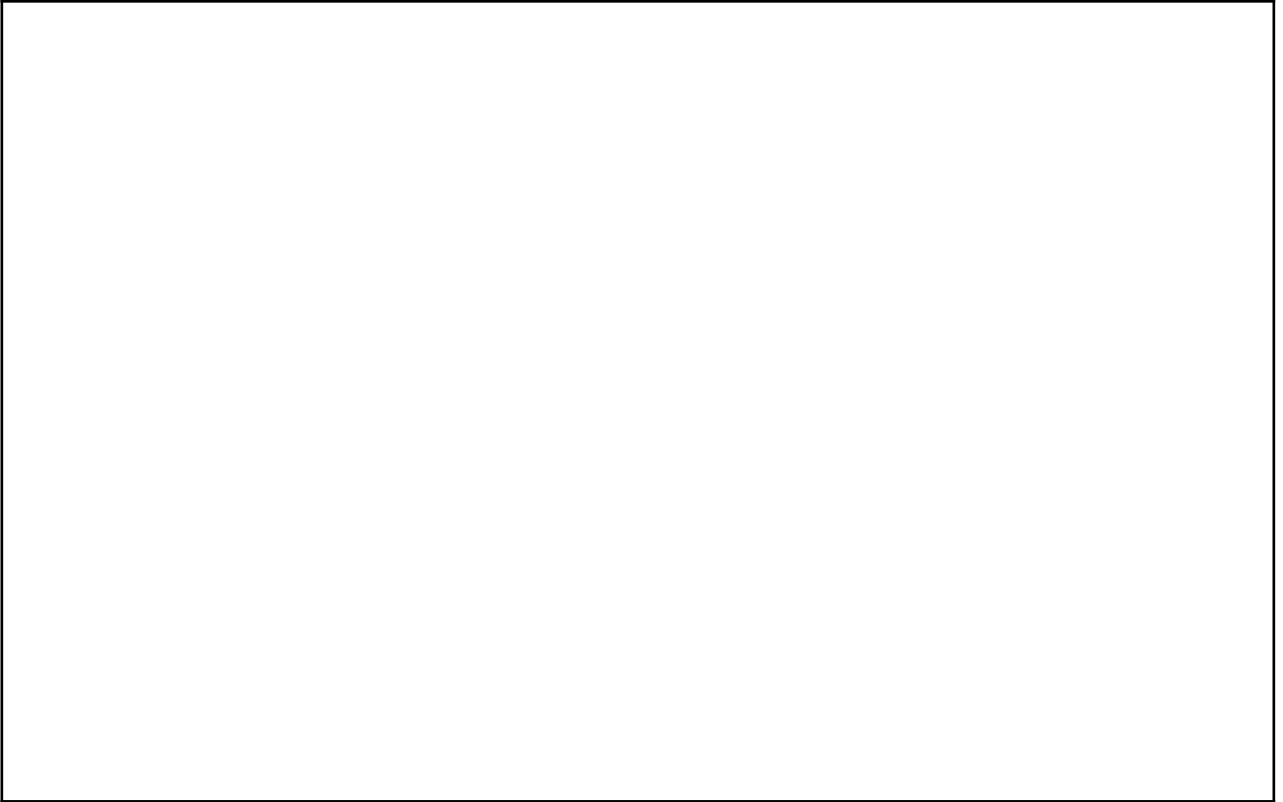
Transitional Kindergarten Conference
May 4, 2016

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SURFACING BELIEFS

SKETCH OF ROOM ENVIRONMENT



What are your current beliefs about room environment?

What do you value?

How might room environment impact learning?

Classroom Environment

ONE BELIEF IS...

“Classroom environments are public statements about the educational values of the institution and their teacher. Arrangement of space...conveys messages about the relationship between teaching and learning, the image of the child held by the teacher, and the expectations for behavior and learning in that setting.”

Simco 1996; Gandini 1998; Rinaldi 1998

“Classroom Environment
is the third teacher.”

Reggio Emilia

Four Lenses:



Oral Language



Early Literacy



Routines and Rituals



Social Emotional Learning

Finding evidence that promotes...

Evidence that promotes Oral Language?
How?

Evidence that promotes Early Literacy Skills?
How?

Evidence that promotes Social Emotional Development?
How?

Evidence that promotes Routines and Rituals?
How?

Classroom Environment Promotes...

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Add your sticky notes to the corresponding anchor charts.
2. Choose one out of your two assigned charts to begin. Analyze the sticky notes and sort them into like groups.
3. Circulate the room, reading the notes and adding additional thoughts.
4. End at your original anchor chart. Take a minute to read any new additions. Choose one person to share the findings from your chart.



Classroom Environment Promotes...

SHARING FINDINGS

How was your lens promoted in the Classroom Environment photos?

- *Any surprises?*
- *Wonderings?*
- *Anything you found validating?*

Evidence that Promotes Oral Language

- Shared reading chart on easel
- Opportunities for students to write their name
- Opportunities to Compare and Contrast (The Little Red Hen)
- Opportunities to state own opinions
- Puppets
- Puzzles
- Blocks
- Science Center
- Farmer's Market
- Thematic Instruction

Evidence that Promotes Early Literacy Skills

- Shared reading chart on easel
- Ample exposure to books: sorted by theme, interest, topic, etc.
- Alphabet cards with pictures
- Literacy center activities
- Name Chart and opportunities to write names
- Labels in Farmers Market
- Puppets
- Thematic Instruction
- Word wall with vowels different colors than consonants
- “Writers Write about...” Anchor Chart

Evidence that Promotes Social Emotional Development

- Books that promote SEL, such as *The Little Red Hen* and *Sticks and Stones*
- Puppets
- Drawings of themselves
- Silhouettes of themselves
- Charts for behavior expectations with scaffolds
- Quiet area to self regulate
- Visual schedule for students to know routines and rituals
- Classroom that is representative of the students in the class and multicultural perspectives and learnings (Ex.Chinese New Year bulletin board)

Evidence that Promotes Routines and Rituals

- Materials were accessible and eye level
- Materials were organized
- Room wasn't cluttered
- Clearly defined spaces
- Good Morning Chart
- Visual Schedules
- Clearly defined areas of the room
- Centers

Revisit your Classroom Environment Drawing



- What might you choose to do differently in your classroom environment?
- Individually reflect and update your drawing:
 - Make the changes on your drawing that you plan to incorporate into your classroom environment.
 - Share out loud

