

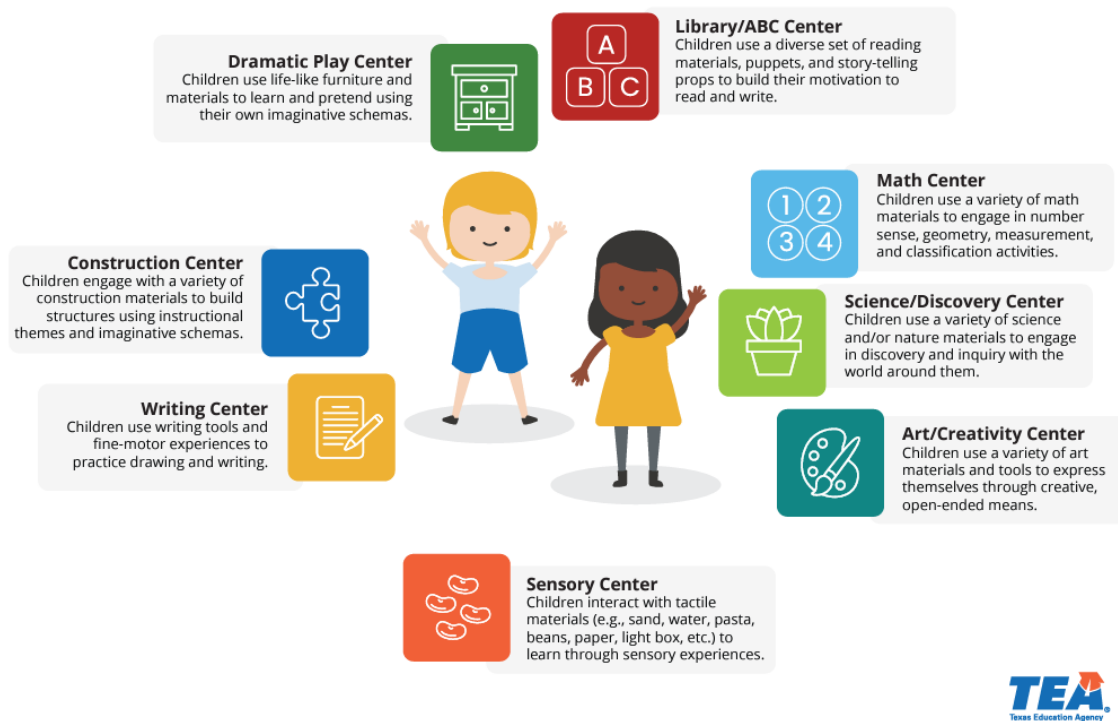
Creating a Learning Centers / Zone: An Amazing idea in ECD Classes

*Today, our Buddi project manager in Nepal shares tips for arranging a preschool classroom.
Happy reading!*

It is important to create different preschool classroom zones and provide a safe and stimulating learning environment for young children. A well-designed classroom should always encourage young children to explore, be creative, and interact with each other which support to promote cognitive, social, and emotional development. But sometimes, it can be hard to get it right.

Creating different classroom zones can be a great way to improve the efficiency in ECD classes. By dividing the areas, you can provide young children with various activities that cater to their interests and learning styles.

Basically, the idea came up with the belief that each child has their own interest and different way of learning. Providing appropriate environment support to stimulate their potentiality. Next, sharing in the group helps them to enhance their cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional development along with interpersonal communication skills.



How to set up a learning center / zone?

There is no perfect solution to create ideal preschool classroom zones. It depends on your needs and requirement when renovating your preschool. If you still don't have any idea what preschool classroom zones you want to create, here are some ideas for you to consider.

Learning centers, sometimes referred to as activity centers or interest centers, are designated spaces in the classroom where students can participate in hands-on, self-directed activities.

The learning center can be divided as Math center, sensory center, Science / discovery center, Role play and dramatic play center, Art / creativity center, physical construction and so on).

These centers could be merged or split depending on the size of the classroom, space available and conducive to learning.

It is said that the classroom should include a minimum of five learning centers with a variety of age-appropriate materials in each that are accessible to students regardless of ability or primary language



The children are freely let go and spend the time in the learning center. They can look at the materials available in those zones as per their interest, play with friends, play with the toys / materials.

It could be completely free play or can be made guided one occasionally based on the theme discussed in that day's class.

After a certain time, all the children are asked to come in a big circle together, let them share their experiences among all the children and discuss together.

Role of ECD teacher / caretaker:

- Ensure that the tables are at the children's height for them to access easily. You can also consider placing a large mat on the floor for the children to use and prevent spills.
- Try to include varied nature of materials including that can be teaching / learning or playing materials.
- Think of the safety of the children while playing on their own.
- Let the child play on their own that could be individual or pair or in small groups. It could be free play or guided by a particular theme of the day.
- Be vigilant of any physical barriers that prohibit required access to manipulatives.
- Anticipate children's behavior that requires assistance or redirection.
- Be aware of problem-solving challenges that may occur between peer-to-peer interactions.
- Be actively engaged with children who require additional support (e.g., social-emotional support, physical development adaptations, technology assistance, etc.).



It's crucial to consider available space, children's ages and interests, and the materials needed to facilitate learning experiences while setting up learning centers.

Additionally, ensure you have an appropriate number of spaces available for children to choose from to encourage independent decision-making during center time. Remember that learning centers offer diverse opportunities for children to develop skills, foster independence, and engage in meaningful play-based learning experiences.

The learning centers are not only educational but also fun, creating a positive and nurturing atmosphere where children can develop a strong foundation for future academic success and personal growth. They are a cornerstone of effective preschool programs, providing a well-rounded and stimulating educational experience for young learners.

References

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