

Observational reflection

EDUC 21 pedagogical foundations

By: Cassidy Vanhoof

1. Diversity... What is The Third Space? Define this term, and explain how it could present in an early learning environment. (3 marks)

A third space is a space that is designed for everyone. It incorporates different cultures with programs that celebrate and educate diversity. It is also an environment that celebrates different cultures within the learning community. Early learning educators are to create an environment that encourages and accepts children's differences such as language and culture. Making children feel as though their differences are important and accepted is one of the most important things to a child.

- What evidence of a third space did you see during your observation? (3 marks)

- During my visit to the day care the environment did act as a third space. As I walked into the daycare there were many displays of art and crafts that the children have made. Inside one of there rooms there were many posters about activities they have done.
- At this daycare I didn't overall notice anything that had symbolized a third space but in an early learning environment they would display more art based on diversity, different holidays would be celebrated and thought rather than just the basic holidays. For example they do an activity on honica..



2. Rapport... Define this topic, and explain why it is important in an early learning environment. (3 marks)

Rapport is the detail and depth of a conversation with a sense of compassion, caring and concern for one another. This is the relationship established between children, Early Learning Professionals, and families. In the early learning environment it's important for children to feel safe and comfortable. Early learning professionals are able to accomplish rapport by building support between the children and accepting them into the learning environment.

- What evidence of rapport did you observe? (3 marks)

- During my visit at the daycare I started off by observing the preschoolers outside. One of the early learning professionals was playing hide and go seek with a hand full of kinds. This is an example of raptor because the kids feel comfortable enough and a sense of belonging to approach the early learning professionals.



- I have also seen in the daycare room that every child has their own book, Early learning professionals write that book about how the children are progressing and doing everyday. This establishes a relationship with the children's families.

3. Professional Practice... What does this term mean? Explain how this term could apply to an early learning professional. (3 marks)

Professional Practice is the experience of the day to day work with children as well as their families. As an Early Learning Professional we are to use the code of ethics and standard practice as a guide to continuous learning. In professional practice early learning professionals are also to be able to make decisions on the spot and quickly that best support the child as early learning professionals

- What examples did you observe from your visit of the early learning professionals demonstrating professional practice? (3 marks)

- During my visit I saw early learning professional exhibiting the daily routines of helping students with their winter clothes as they come in from outside.
- One child was getting upset about not having a certain toy because another student was playing with it. The early learning professional advised that the student ask nicely to use it or for the student to move to another playing area until the other child was done. This is a good example because it shows how early learning professionals can think quickly and support the child.



4. Environment... Discuss the idea that the environment is the third teacher. What does this mean? (3 marks)

A third teacher environment is where children are able to explore their curiosity, learn and develop through play. The environment has activities scattered throughout the room that are engaging to children. Asking parents what the children are interested in is a great way to make the activities personal to the child's likes and dislikes. Through the third teacher environment children are able to experience and strengthen their communication and social skills with their peers. They are also able to learn to problem solve through their play based learning.

- How did the environment that you observed represent a third teacher? (3 marks)

- The environment at this daycare was fun and inviting for children. This environment was playbased. In the outdoor area they had a sandbox with different materials such as sticks and pine cones, this works as children learn about their environment around them through play.
- Loose parts were displayed through play as there was one section that had banana boxes and blankets. Children used the blankets and drape them over the boxes and pretend like they are building a house.
- There was also a section with a kitchen where children collaborate on setting the table and making the fake food.



5. Programming... Discuss the difference between emergent programming and thematic based programming. (3marks)

Emergent programming is designed by the learners based on their interest and abilities. It's a curriculum that is created by the teacher as well as the students called "co-constructing" (Dietze, B. & Kashin, D 2016 page 18). Thematic based programming is a curriculum that is created by the teacher based off of themes. The teacher is in control of what happens on the day to day and they set specific goals for the children. Thematic programming is based off more of an academic aspect rather than emergent that focuses on the children's interests.

- On your observational visit, what type of programming did you observe? What kinds of experiences did you observe the children engaging in? (3 marks)

- There were plenty of activities during play that suited children's interest for example a centre where children could build things with blocks and use their creativity to make what they want
- There was a center where children could paint this paint was water based
- In the outdoor area there was a spot with planters and logs, children could explore



your understanding of each foundation. Remember, your examples must be detailed enough for your reader to visualize what you saw. (12 marks)

A) How does learning happen is a document that is used to help early learning professionals understand children’s needs in the learning environment. Its use as a kind of guide that helps us understand children’s development and how to go forward in their growth and development.

B)

Foundations	Definition	Example 1	Example 2
Belonging	Creating relationships and a sense of belonging between children, families and early learning professionals. The establishment of trust and confidence. A feeling of acceptance in an environment. Making children feel that they are an important member of the community and that their voice is heard. (How does learning	Children have their own cubbies with their name and picture above. This gives children a sense of belonging and acceptance because they are apart of that learning community.	Every child was more than comfortable to come up to the early learning professionals and tell them stories and ask questions, some students even asked if the early learning professionals would play. This was because the early learning professional show caring and compassion towards the children and that makes them feel

	happen,2014 page 24- 28)		as though the belong.
Well-being	Providing an environment that promotes healthy nutritious meals and snacks. Promotes physical well-being of activities and fitness (play). (How does learning happen, 2014, page 29-34)	There was a section on the wall with little baskets. Each basket had a picture of a child on the front. Inside the baskets were anything that the child needed medically. For example some baskets had creams, epipens and so on.	Within the program at this daycare they have a specific time and amount of time that the children get to play outside. This creates well being through physical activity and play
Engagement	Creating an environment in which a child gets involved in play. Encourages their curiosity when they actively participate in activities and people around them. (How does learning happen, 2014, page, 35-40)	When the early learning professional played hide and seek outside it got the children involved in moving around and playing. Also an example of curiosity about their environment as they look for a spot to hide	In the outdoor area this daycare provided a small little bride. The children would climb on the railings with supervision and explore through play.
Expression	Making the children feel as though their voice is important in the learning environment and community and are heard by all. (How does learning happen, 2014 page 41-45)	The children often walked up to the early learning professional telling them a story that happened. The early learning professional listened with a sense of compassion. This made the child feel that what they were	During play a child told the early learning professional that a certain toy was not available. The early learning professional listened to what the child had to say and then

		saying was important.	continued to get the toy for that child. This made the child feel that the early learning professional was listening.
--	--	-----------------------	---

On a side note, I just wanted to point out that this daycare had the “ well-being, belonging, engagement, expression written on wood block and placed on the window sill of the daycare room.

Bonus Mark: List an example of a teacher script that you saw the site adhering to?

“Children follow the rules, routines, and a time schedule” (Dietze, B. & Kashin, D 2016 page 168) in the outdoor play there were two early learning professionals. Each ECE was assigned a group of children. When it was time for them to go inside each child knew exactly which ECE they were to go with. They knew as soon as they go inside the door they were to take off their boots and follow the ECE down the stairs to their learning room. Once the children go in this room they are in the routine of getting their indoor shoes on and sitting at one of the tables to wait for further instructions from the early learning professionals.

References

Banana boxes are often free from grocery stores! Because of the wholes, they're not great for clothes or socks, but they are great for thing...: Banana, Fresh green, Bubbles. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/53058101830679634/?lp=true>.

Bardichevska, Y. (2016, November 3). Winter Kid's Child's Clothes Set Collage Isolated. Stock Photo - Image of isolated, fashion: 79568838. Retrieved from <https://www.dreamstime.com/stock-photo-winter-kid-s-child-s-clothes-set-collage-isolated-kids-fashion-apparel-white-background-modern-fashion-stylish-warm-wear-image79568838>.

BushInterior, E. (n.d.). Baby & Kids. Retrieved from <https://foter.com/kids-coat-cubby>.

Dietze, B. & Kashin, D (2016) Empowering pedagogy for early childhood education. Don Mills, ON : Pearson.

Free local classified ads. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.gumtree.com.au/s-pots-garden-beds/tas/planter-boxes/k0c21018l3008843>.

Masterpieces Wall Decal for Children's Art Wall - Large Wall Decal - Customize Playroom - Art Wall Decal - Word Wall Decal - Name Decal: Wall decals, Childrens wall art, Playroom art. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/117234396522329567/?lp=true>.

Ministry of Education. (2014). *How does learning happen?: Ontarios pedagogy for the early years: a resource about learning through relationships for those who work with young children and their families*. Toronto.