

Classroom RRDC February 2020



Weekly Focus

- *The importance of a simple learning environment*

Think about...

- How you feel when living space is a mess- unmade bed, dust on the floors, dirty dishes in the sink
- Compare this to when:
- Your living space is clean and tidy with everything in it's place
- Stressed vs. calm and settled?

Learning Triangle

- As RRDC teachers we take a lot of time preparing our environments
- We believe that the student, teacher and environment all work together to form the “learning triangle”
- When an environment is set up appropriately it can help a child develop independence, coordination, concentration and an internal sense of order while supporting well being and social and academic achievement

The Classroom

- Everything in the classroom has a purpose and a place
- There is a sense of order that makes it easy for the children to navigate and clean up after themselves successfully
- Teachers keep the environment fresh and engaging by observing how children respond to the environment and changing things as needed

Less is More

- Children will become more interested in what is on the shelves when there are LESS items
- This leads to longer periods of concentration, easier cleanup, greater independence

● Quality over quantity

Letting Go

- Be sure to throw away or donate works and toys that are broken or have missing pieces
- A child can not successfully work with a toy that is not complete and it becomes useless and takes up precious space

Rotate

- We will be more mindful of this with our monthly curriculums
- Share your observations: if you notice children are losing interest in a particular work or area of the classroom we should discuss replacing works with new works
- Morning vs. Afternoon

Focus on beauty and order

- Think about how lovely it is when you enter a place that is simple, orderly and beautiful – you relax!
- Bring this wonderful energy into your classrooms by displaying toys and activities in a way that is enticing and has a clear sense of order

Simple does NOT equal BORING

- We can make our classrooms simple while still making them beautiful and inviting
- Live plants, small area rugs, curtains, art boards, tablecloths
- What other ideas?