Holistic Approach for Early Childhood Education

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Why Early Childhood Education?

A substantial body of research establishes that preschool education have an impact on the learning and development of young children. Many studies have found the immediate effects of preschool education for children during their first five years of life. Some have compared the outcomes for preschool education against other options: outcomes for a true control group having no preschool education; outcomes for typical experience (which includes child care outside the home); and outcomes for more or less well-defined alternatives (for example, outcomes for preschool education programs using different curricula). With such a large number of studies, meta-analysis is clearly indicates the importance of pre-school education.

Aim of ECE

- Develop a positive self-concept. Establish a sound foundation for a good physique, adequate muscular coordination and basic motor skills
- Imbibe good health habits and basic life skills/ self-help skills necessary for personal social adjustment.
Aim of ECE Continue..

- Develop the verbal and non-verbal communication skills which helps to expression of thoughts and feelings in fluent, correct, clear speech.
- Develop the five senses and cognitive skills and concepts which are foundation for higher order thinking and reasoning.
- Develop emotional maturity by guiding the child to express, understand, accept and control feelings and emotions.
- Imbibe values, social attitudes and manners important in his/her socio cultural context and to become sensitive to rights and privileges of others.
- Develop independence, aesthetic appreciation and creativity by providing child with sufficient opportunities for self-expression and active exploration, investigation and experimentation.
- Make a smooth transition from preschool to primary through development of emergent literacy and school readiness.
Curriculum in Preschool

- Curriculum is the entire range of experiences that children have at school. Content objectives and learning outcomes, knowledge of child development and careful observation of the needs and interests of individual children guide curriculum. NAEYC defines Curriculum means a written plan that includes: goals for children’s development and learning; experiences through which they will achieve these goals.
- The content that children are to learn
- The processes through which children achieve the identified curricular goals
- What teachers do to help children achieve these goals
- The context in which teaching and learning occur
What Kind of Curriculum in Preschool?

- Preschool helps the child in all round development. When we speak about Early Childhood Education Curriculum, we need certain approaches which enhances the child development.
- There are en numbers approaches, which helps the children for their development. Then the million dollar question is ‘Why Holistic Approach?’
- Holistic Approach helps the overall development of the Child

- Over all development =
Why Holistic Education?

• The world research emphasizing the significance of holistic approaches to education, early childhood educators are being challenged to integrate a teaching practice that focuses less on the traditional milestones of academic development, and more on the complete physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing of a child (UNESCO, 2002). The research is compelling and studies show that over time, even persons with average IQ (Intellectual Intelligence) but with high EI (Emotional Intelligence) are significantly more successful than those with much higher IQs but low EI (Goleman, 1995). The early childhood curriculum reflects the holistic way children learn and grow.

• Cognitive, social, cultural, physical, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of human development are integrally interwoven. The early childhood curriculum takes up a model of learning that weaves together intricate patterns of linked experience and meaning rather than emphasizing the acquisition of discrete skills. The child’s whole context, the physical surroundings, the emotional context, relationships with others, and the child’s immediate needs at any moment will affect and modify how a particular experience contributes to the child’s development.
Why holistic approach

This integrated view of learning sees the child as a person who wants to learn, sees the task as a meaningful whole, and sees the whole as greater than the sum of its individual tasks or experiences.

- Holistic Approach integrate learning and development.
- Constant, warm relationships that connect everything together.
- Opportunities for open-ended exploration and play.
- recognition of the spiritual dimension of children’s lives in culturally, socially, and individually appropriate ways
- Tasks, activities, and contexts that have meaning for the child, including practices and activities not always associated with the word “curriculum”, such as care routines, mealtimes, and child management strategies.
What is Holistic Approach

- Holistic education is a philosophy of education based on the premise that each person finds identity, meaning, and purpose in life through connections to the community, to the natural world, and to humanitarian values such as compassion and peace.

- Holistic Approach in an Education means engaging and developing the whole person through education. Holist Approach helps to bring the development of the different levels for the learners. It covers physical, emotional, cognitive, language and spiritual. It's the concept that the human being is multi-dimensional. We have conscious and unconscious aspects, rational and irrational aspects.
Holistic Approach in Preschool...

- Development is holistic; it consists of inter-dependent dimensions. This means that the child’s development cannot be fragmented into health, nutrition, education, social, emotional and spiritual variables. All are interconnected in a child’s life and are developing simultaneously.
- Progress in one area affects progress in others. Similarly, when something goes wrong in any one of those areas, it has an impact on all the other areas.
- Holistic Approach helps the child to overcome learning difficulties. As it helps the child’s overall development.
Holistic Approach..
Holistic Approach... In School
How to Implement in school

• Teachers facilitate environments that allow children to feel the warmth and connection of a small village. They revere creating a home life within our school community.

• Teaching methods emphasize a nurturing, multi-sensory, nature-based learning environment. The stimulation of the child’s imagination and creativity is a high priority. Multiple learning modalities are integrated into daily rhythms to create a learning atmosphere that is supportive, challenging and meaningful to each child. Opportunities for artistic expression abound throughout the class.

• The young child learns primarily through imitation and example. Provide an environment which brings nurturing guidance and cooperation into the child’s world of imagination and fantasy. The week is rhythmically structured to include storytelling and puppetry, creative work and play, singing and creative movement, games and finger plays, crafts, art activities, and fairy tales.
Implementation

- Teachers practice “Awareness of Self” in the classroom. They model and teach healthy, respectful and compassionate ways of relating and problem solving in the classroom setting through their behavior, language and energy. Children will feel the nurturing presence of their teachers. This creates an emotional security which will allow the child’s spirit the freedom to imagine, create and discover the world around them. Further, this encourages them to discern their sense of self.

- Teachers create Daily, Weekly and Yearly Rhythms. These rhythms provide a balanced structure for the children, allowing them to flow with ease through their times in the classroom, as well as meeting expectations of the classroom environment (from their teacher and their peers). Rhythms facilitate a means for children to feel, know and respond to what comes next (joyful anticipation). It is through this knowing that children become free to create, learn and discover.
Implementation

- Healthy Expectations – age appropriate responsibilities, as well as the activities teachers bring to the children are an essential part of their growth and development. Teacher should allow the children for the space and time to rise and meet what is being asked of them. Parents will see the joy as they feel as their sense of self/place in the classroom.

- Nurturing and nourishing the sense of wonder and imagination of the child – teachers provide the children with the materials, space and activities to create their world and express themselves.
Out come

- Progress on child learning and development.
- Enhance the cognitive development
- Provides enough opportunities for language development.
- Provides opportunities for various domains like, creative, socio-emotional, spiritual, aesthetic, fine motor, gross motor development.
- Progress in the growth of the child (age on set of physical growth of the child).
Reference

- http://thechildrensgardenpreschool.org/program/holistic-curriculum/
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