Creating a FUN Filled Home Learning Environment

Nannypalooza OZ Sue Downey

Learning Environment consists of:

PEOPLE

What does your attitude say every day? How do the feelings between adults in home affect child? How does child mood affect the day and the flow of activity?

PHYSICAL SPACE

Is it inviting? Stimulating? SAFE? Is it a place that is comfortable and appropriate for taking risks and chances? Can you be messy? Is there color? Is there language? Are there places for quiet and contemplation? Is it an environment of YES?

CULTURE

What is valued in the home? Is this a place where it is ok to make mistakes? Is everyone valued as a teacher and a learner? How do we set up for success? Is there trust between teacher and kids?

Language Rich Environment:

Setting in which child is surrounded by talk and the ability to communicate with others. Crucial for early years as it builds expressive and receptive language abilities and later translates into better reading, comprehension and writing skills. Language should be layered- where children are active participants.

Using Socratic Questions:

- Clarification
- Probing Assumptions
- Probing Reasons
- Questioning Viewpoints
- Questioning Consequences
- Questions about the Question

Consider meeting the needs of all areas of development on a daily or weekly basis. Are you providing opportunities for growth in gross motor, fine motor, cognitive, language, social and emotional development?

Are your planned activities both closed and open ended?

Are you allowing for different learning styles: kinesthetic, auditory, visual?