

Chapter 1: The Self-Directed Learning Environment

True / False

1. If the classroom is set up for children to get deeply involved in their own learning, then the teacher will have free time to plan for the next day.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

2. The more direct involvement the children have with learning activities, the longer it will take them to learn.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

3. The teacher in an early childhood classroom should be a facilitator of learning, so that the children can teach themselves.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

4. Observations of how each child works and plays with materials is important because it tells the teacher when to order more supplies.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

5. Having picture books for overnight lending is not necessary for programs having a large classroom library.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

Multiple Choice

6. Linda Zane emphasizes that the early learning environment should structure space to:

a. provide areas for intentional learning.

b. reflect a welcoming and caring tone to all who enter.

c. have teachers and children work together.

d. encourage the children asking for supplies and materials as they need them.

ANSWER: b

7. The studies of Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget found that:

- a. teachers do not need to stand and teach.
- b. young children create their own knowledge.
- c. the kinds of materials are not important.
- d. the number of materials is not important.

ANSWER: b

8. To be a facilitator of learning, a teacher should:

- a. ask a child what he or she wants to do.
- b. have children play with their favorite materials.
- c. observe the children once a week.
- d. observe how children interact with materials.

ANSWER: d

9. Teachers should set up the classroom so that:

- a. children can teach themselves.
- b. observing children will be easy.
- c. children will not be bored.
- d. activities can be changed easily.

ANSWER: a

10. The materials in the classroom should:

- a. relate to what the children already know.
- b. be changed frequently.
- c. include many alphabet books.
- d. relate to children's ages and stages of development.

ANSWER: d

11. Jean Piaget's studies led him to describe:

- a. the social context of school concepts.
- b. three distinct kinds of knowledge.
- c. the distance between what children can do and what help they need.
- d. how teachers can help children acquire knowledge.

ANSWER: b

12. Lev Vygotsky's "zone of proximal development" is:

- a. children's specific level of functioning.
- b. the distance between what children can do alone and with help.
- c. what children learn from their environment.
- d. children's spontaneous concepts acquired through direct experience.

ANSWER: b

13. Jerome Bruner found that children:

- a. could learn without much adult help.
- b. need an adult to scaffold the acquisition of skills.

- c. behaved beyond their average age rarely.
- d. need a highly controlled environment.

ANSWER: b

14. Developmentally appropriate practice relates to:
- a. the appropriateness of an early childhood curriculum.
 - b. the formal instruction of academic skills.
 - c. teacher-directed activities in preschool.
 - d. the use of worksheets and workbooks.

ANSWER: a

15. Standards and criteria:
- a. should replace developmentally appropriate practice.
 - b. discourage diversity in early childhood programs.
 - c. have been developed in a few states.
 - d. can become helpful tools to identify common expectations.

ANSWER: d

16. In a self-directed learning environment, teachers:
- a. direct children to appropriate learning centers.
 - b. are guided by a curriculum designed by the school.
 - c. arrange the learning centers for children's own choice.
 - d. include children with disabilities in separate centers.

ANSWER: c

17. The Appropriate Practices Curriculum arranges learning centers based on:
- a. how they relate to one another.
 - b. how important they are.
 - c. whether they use blocks or books.
 - d. the size of the classroom.

ANSWER: a

18. A self-regulating method:
- a. helps children learn to take turns.
 - b. helps the teacher keep track of children.
 - c. tells children when to be quiet.
 - d. allows children to roam around the room.

ANSWER: a

19. For children to develop trust in the teacher, the teacher must:
- a. tell them which activities to follow.
 - b. tell them when it is time to change activities.
 - c. allow them to do whatever they want.
 - d. show them she trusts them.

ANSWER: d

20. For children to trust the environment, they must:

- a. know the names of the choices available.
- b. have the freedom and time to explore the choices.
- c. know which activities the teacher likes best.
- d. be familiar with all the materials in the centers.

ANSWER: b

Subjective Short Answer

21. One of the three kinds of knowledge Piaget differentiated was _____.

ANSWER: physical, logical-mathematical, or social-conventional

22. To be developmentally appropriate, an early childhood program should be _____.

ANSWER: age appropriate, individually appropriate, culturally appropriate, or linguistically appropriate

23. The person most closely associated with developmentally appropriate practice (DAP) is _____.

ANSWER: Sue Bredekamp or Carol Copple

24. One self-regulating method a child can use to control the number of children in a learning center is _____.

ANSWER: tickets, name tags, photo tags, or necklaces

25. The best way for a child to gain access to ongoing play is _____.

ANSWER: a parallel activity

Essay

26. Describe a self-directed learning environment.

ANSWER: The self-directed learning environment is a dynamic setting that creates an opportunity for learning by offering appropriately arranged learning centers responsive to the individual child's interests and needs.