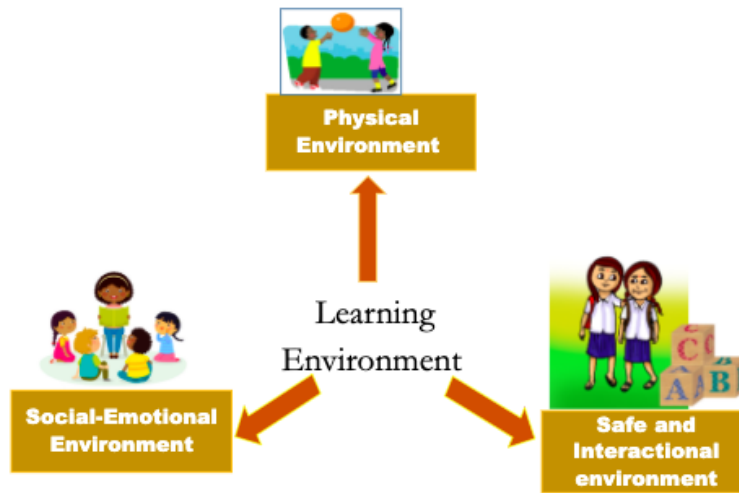


Worksheet 1: Learning Environment & Situational Factors to Consider



Worksheet 1: Specific Context of the Teaching/Learning Situation

- How many students are in the class?

I have 20 students in my classroom. I am a self-contained teacher responsible for teaching various subjects, including Spanish Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science.

- Is the course primary, secondary, undergraduate, or graduate level?

I teach Kindergarten

- How long and frequent are the class meetings?

Classes are held daily. Our class schedule is designed to incorporate 45-minute whole-group instruction in each subject area and 25-minute sessions dedicated to centers or rotation stations.

- **How will the course be delivered: live, online, blended, flipped, or in a classroom or lab?**

Our class adopts a blended learning approach that combines face-to-face and online instruction. We highlight the significance of rotation centers, which foster creativity and the cultivation of a robust academic vocabulary. Implementing station rotations allows students to collaborate and integrate technology into the lessons.

- **What physical elements of the learning environment will affect the Class?**

One of the difficulties that impact my class is the physical environment. The number of kids in a small space makes the class slightly noisy, especially when working on stations. The noise diverts students' attention and interrupts their concentration and focus.

- **What technology, networking, and access issues will affect the class?**

Fortunately, my school district provides iPads and headphones for every student. However, the varying levels of students' digital skills create a significant challenge for integrating technology into learning activities. Also, high usage of school networks during peak times can lead to slow performance and connectivity issues.

1. General Context of the Learning Situation

What learning expectations are placed on this course or curriculum by the school, district, university, college, and department? The profession? Society?

Our kindergarten curriculum, which includes learning objectives established by the school and district, is focused on essential literacy and numeracy skills, social-emotional development, and compliance with state standards.

Our profession requires ethical teaching practices and ongoing professional development to stay updated on the latest educational practices and research, enhance our teaching strategies, and meet the needs of diverse learners.

Our society expects kindergarteners to develop essential skills to become responsible citizens and lifelong learners who can engage effectively in a diverse world.

2. Nature of the Subject

Is this subject primarily theoretical, practical, or a combination? Is the subject primarily convergent or divergent? Are there important changes or controversies occurring within the field?

The subject of education, particularly in kindergarten, is a combination of theoretical and practical elements. It is Divergent because it encourages creativity, critical thinking, and the exploration of multiple approaches to learning.

One meaningful change is the rise of digital learning tools, transforming teaching and learning. Blended learning represents a promising yet controversial approach to education.

3. Characteristics of the Learners

What is the life situation of the learners (e.g., socioeconomic, cultural, personal, family, professional goals)? What prior knowledge, experiences, and initial feelings do students usually have about this subject? What are their learning goals and expectations?

- **Life situation:**

I work for a Title I school, and my students come from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. Their cultural experiences and personal situations influence their approach to learning.

Family dynamics affect how much time and support kids can dedicate to their education.

- **Prior knowledge**

The students learn most of their knowledge from their immediate surroundings, usually their household. My students are very young; some of them have previous experiences in daycares or Pre-kindergarten, but others have experienced school for the first time. They feel scared and sometimes frustrated with so many new concepts and things to learn, and they cannot understand them just yet. Consequently, teachers must create a safe and encouraging environment that supports each student's growth and learning.

- **Learning goals and expectations**

Students' goals and expectations focus on fostering curiosity and foundational knowledge about the world around them. They are encouraged to develop observational skills by using their senses to explore their surroundings and ask questions about what they see. They will

enhance their vocabulary by engaging in hands-on activities and using technology.

4. Characteristics of the Teacher

What beliefs and values does the teacher have about teaching and learning? What is his/her attitude toward the subject? Students? What level of knowledge or familiarity does she have with this subject? What are his/her strengths in teaching?

- I advocate for a student-centered methodology that emphasizes active participation and developing critical thinking skills.
- I am a facilitator in a setting where students collaborate and take ownership of their learning.
- Education is a lifelong process; as a teacher, I want to instill curiosity and love for learning in my students.

Attitude toward the subject

I have a passion for the subject. I see Science as an opportunity to engage my students through interactive activities, stimulating their curiosity and natural sense of the world. Students can be inspired to become lifelong learners excited about exploration and discovery.

Level of knowledge or familiarity with the subject

I have been in education for almost 16 years. I am familiar with child development, but I know that every school year is different and brings new challenges and students with different needs.

Strengths in Teaching:

- I am a patient person. I maintain calm and support my struggling students to the best of my abilities.
- As an immigrant, I understand my students' emotional and social needs, so I foster a positive and inclusive environment.
- I have strong classroom management. I establish clear rules and routines that create a respectful and productive classroom atmosphere.
- I recognize and value the diversity in my classroom. I promote inclusivity and respect among students.
- I am cultivating a growth mindset.

Learning Environment & Situational Factors Adopted from: by L. Dee Fink (2003) *Creating Significant Learning Experiences: An Integrated Approach to Designing College Courses*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass