Kaplan Floor Planner: Pre-school Classroom

Instructional Areas:

1. Shape rug
2. Writing desk
3. 4 Station space saver easel
4. Alphabet rug
5. Student tables/chairs
6. Computer

Learning Centers:

1. Mail Center
2. Reading arch
3. Kitchen area
4. Sand/water table
5. Dress-up area

With my classroom, I designed a floor plan for a pre-school class. With pre-school, I knew I could incorporate more furniture and learning centers than I normally would in an older classroom. One important feature of this classroom that differentiates it from an older classroom is the presence of a bathroom in the corner of the room. Children at this age frequently use the bathroom and it is helpful to have one in the classroom to prevent accidents and taking children to the bathroom all the time. I chose blue for my carpet because blue is typically a calming color, and can be easily cleaned as opposed to a light colored carpet. I included various learning centers to foster different types of play, creativity, and discovery of activities within our home and school environments.

With my learning centers, I have them spread out across the room so children in one area can stay and learn in that designated area and not be disturbed or distracted. My first learning center is the mail center in the bottom right corner of the room. As a learning center, I would use this piece of equipment to let my students practice being mail people and delivering “mail” to the correct slot. These slots could be labeled with fake names or names of their classmates. This would also foster literacy because students would be practicing recognizing names and matching the name on the mail with the slot. I could also write mail to my students and have them check their slots and become familiar with friendly letters and checking mail. Another learning center in my room is the reading arch in the right outside middle of my room. This arch allows students to stand or sit underneath the arch, similar to a tent. There is also a couch and beanbag in this center, which promotes developing literacy and good reading habits. At this age, the students would be reading age-appropriate picture books, but this is a cozy area with alternative seating that students would enjoy. The kitchen area in the middle of the room is another learning center that would be similar to kitchen toys they may have at home. They can creatively play using dramatic play and pretending to cook, grocery shop, and eat food. According to Brewer (2007), “children can ‘play’ various roles and behaviors and get feedback about the appropriateness of the behaviors in play” (p. 22). This type of play is beneficial to students in developing their schema about real life roles and behaviors. The sand/water table is another center that promotes discovery and free play with students. This center is also located near the bathroom so students can wash their hands after being in this center. The mobile dress-up center will also promote dramatic play and allow students to pretend they hold various careers in the community. For example, I would have a fireman outfit, police officer, doctor, veterinarian, sanitation worker, mail person, etc. This would serve double duty of promoting dramatic play as well as teaching students about jobs and people in their own community.

The instructional areas I included in my floorplan include the shape rug and the alphabet rug. Both of these areas will help students learn geometric shapes and the letters in the alphabet. This will serve as math and reading instruction, respectively. There are three tables with six chairs each which will serve as student seating for when I need them doing group work and during the morning arrival and afternoon release routines. I also included a writing desk in the top right corner of the room. This desk has 4 chairs at it, and areas for paper and writing utensils. This can be used during free center time too, or for instructional work. To the left of this instructional area is a computer with a desk and chair. This can be used for differentiation of instruction or even for special needs students who need accommodations. The 4 station space saver easel includes white boards and storage areas for writing utensils. Students can stand or sit at these easels, and can be used to practice writing, math, shapes, or any content area instruction. Most of these instructional areas are multi-purpose and interdisciplinary. Versatility and abundance of resources are important in a pre-school classroom because students attention spans are short at this age and need a multitude of manipulatives and play objects. I also included my teacher desk in the top left corner with a teacher cabinet, a sink and trash can on the right middle wall of the room, 18 cubbies for children’s backpacks and nap blankets, a nap mat rack, and various storage racks for manipulatives, toys, and materials. This room is very full, but there are many activities that are possible and enough variety to keep students engaged and enjoying learning.

