School Age – Creating Developmentally Appropriate Activities

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K2C2

Learning Objectives

- Participants will identify the characteristics of a quality school age program
- Participants will plan program activities that are developmentally appropriate for the children they teach

School Age Centers

- How are school age centers different than regular child care centers?
- Think about who the center serves, where do the centers operate, who are the staff in a school age site, how is the day organized, etc.
- Complete handout #1
How do you know whether your program is effective?

- If your program is well-planned, what can you expect to see? Please list your answers on the side of this handout.

Children who are:

- Engaged
- Having fun
- Challenged
- Learning
- Self-Confident
- Making Friends

How do Children Learn?

- According to Piaget, children learn best through hands-on experiences by using materials that are available to them and by interactions with other adults and children.
Activity - Children’s thinking between the ages of 4 and 14

- According to Piaget, children’s thinking and logic goes through various stages.
- Please read article on Piaget’s Developmental Stages
- Answer questions on handout and return for review.

Purposes of Planning School Age Activities

- Keep children engaged
- When children are involved in games and activities, they have opportunities to socialize, negotiate, problem-solve.
- Children should be creating their own friendships where they must learn to communicate with children of different ages, different cultures, etc.

Planning Ahead

- Ask the children what they are interested in.
- Ask them what they would like to see included in their school age program.
- You can also come up with activities by observing the children in your program to see what do they enjoy, the areas they tend to frequent, etc.
- Ask the parents what interests their children have.
Activity – Gathering Information

- Please complete the gathering information sheet after observing and interviewing the children in your school age program.

Benefits of asking the children

- When we take the children’s suggestions, they know we care and respect their opinions.
- Everyone wants to do activities that they are interested in.
- The children give us ideas we would not even think of.

What are the talents/interests of staff

- Ask the staff what are they interested in?
- What can they bring to the program that someone else can’t?
- We all have different talents, cultures, etc. to bring to the program.
- Find this out and make your program better.
Staff Involvement

- All staff should be involved in coming up with ideas for the program
- Also the staff should be evaluating and assessing the activities.
- What works, what doesn’t work, how can you make an activity better?
- Constantly look at how you can create better experiences, different experiences for the children

Staff Accountability

- Staff should have to be accountable to someone for the activities they come up with.
- The director may want to split responsibilities of writing up lesson plans weekly.
- Plans should be posted for parents, administration, children to see.

Activity – Creating a School Age Lesson Plan

- Using the information you collected from observing and asking the children in your care, please create a lesson plan that you will use with in your school age program
- Please use the NAEYC activity plan to document your work.
Remember

- Create a community in the classroom and with the parents
- Provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child’s education
- Communicate and listen
- Connect to other organizations and find resources for families in the community
- Be patient, be forgiving, and don’t give up!

Conclusion

- Please submit all handouts for review.
- You will receive individual feedback and 2 hours of training through the PA Keys if packet is complete
- If you need assistance with the packet, please contact me at 610-513-6144
- Thanks!

References

Please answer the questions below and return with completed packet:

Who does your school age center serve, the ages of the children, the demographics, etc?

Where does your center operate?

Please list below the schedule of your program. How is your program organized?
Piaget’s Developmental Stages Activity

After reading article on Piaget’s Developmental Stage, please fill out the chart below and return with completed packet:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Characteristics of Stage</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sensorimotor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Preoperational Stage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concrete Operational Stage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formal Operational Stage</td>
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</table>
Gathering Information
Activity

Please interview and observe the children in your school age program to figure out what activities you should plan:

After observing the children in your program, write below the activities that they enjoy the most:

Ask the children in your program what their interests are and list below:

Ask the children what hobbies they already have or may be interested in learning about and list below:
Please list below materials you would need to implement the above suggestions:

How can this information help you to create a better school age program?
Activity Plan

Activity: ____________________________________________________________

Why do this activity? __________________________________________________

What can children learn? _____________________________________________

Vocabulary words: ____________________________________________________

Materials: ___________________________________________________________

Prepare for the activity

Lead small groups
Respond to individuals


Follow up after the activity


Involve families


Notes: