

LESSON 27

PLAY CENTRE: OBJECTIVES

SUMMARY

As the child is growing up physically, characteristics change with age and child feels more equipped in every respect. The child can move around with greater ease and is very curious about the surroundings. The child likes to be with his/her agemates. To provide a surrounding to the child which ensures the optimum level of development becomes important and that is why play centre is important for the development of the child.

Meaning of Play centre

A play centre is a place which provides children with facilities like toys, play space etc; allows them to explore and experiment; provides a meeting ground for many children and therefore enhances the all-round development of each child. The environment is friendly and stimulating. The play centre caters to 2 to 5-year-olds who come for 2-3 hours each day.

Play centre is-

- child centred units, allowing children to progress at their own pace
- focuses on holistic development of the child
- independent and group learning through play, exploration
- helps to sustain motivation for further schooling

Play centre is not-

- a miniature primary school
- a place where teacher centred education is encouraged
- a place where passive learning and blind obedience is required

Need and Basis for a play centre

There are certain unique characteristics of the learning process of 2 to 5-year-olds that demand a play centre. They include following:

Characteristics of a play centre

- Children learn naturally through play
- Children learn best by doing
- Children's attention span is not very long (7 – 15 minutes)
- The brain at 3 years is eighty percent of the adult brain mass facilitating maximum learning, hence they need a stimulating environment at this age
- Children learn easily from each other, from older children, from adults and from the physical environment

Objectives of a Play centre

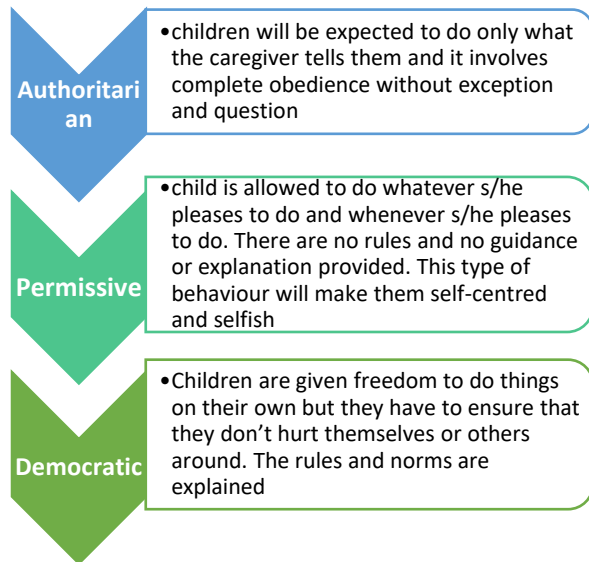
Objectives

- To provide the child opportunities to explore and experiment with a variety of activities, objects and places
- To provide opportunities for rich and positive interaction with peer group and adults
- To provide a secure and supportive environment for the holistic development of children
- To encourage active rather than passive learning in children
- To structure the experience according to the developmental level of children
- To allow children to learn and grow at their own rate without making learning stressful and yet provide enough challenges to sustain motivation and interest
- To promote self-control and discipline in the child
- To help in transition from home to formal school

Handling children in the play centre

Some kind of discipline is needed for the child to feel secure in any environment. They should be told about boundaries of acceptable

and unacceptable behaviour. The caregiver needs to provide constant supervision and ensure that the child does not get hurt himself/herself or others. There are three basic forms of discipline that can be enforced.



Behavioural Problems in Children at Play centre



Causes of behavioural problems

- If the environment forbids self-expression, children pick unacceptable behaviour
- too much expectation from children by parents or teachers
- when children learn that unacceptable behaviours are tools to get what they want
- Disturbed family environment
- Crisis in child's life
- When not able to cope up physically due to chronic illness or fall sick frequently

Evaluate yourself

1. What are the behavioural problems in children at play centre?
2. List the objectives of a play centre.
3. Discuss the different types of discipline.