

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM – Dodowa D/A KG

The concept is an activity based integrated learning model for Kindergarten students. Kids must at all times be able to encapsulate a myriad of ideas/knowledge while performing one activity/task. These learning processes are derivatives of the everyday routine in the life of the kid at home, school, play grounds, hospitals, shopping centres, libraries and other places where the kid takes interest in one or two things. Most of the knowledge is acquired unconsciously.

Learning is an art and kids must do so in a friendly environment through well-resourced teachers in the absence of canes and other forms of corporal punishments. Kids must learn while playing. The model classroom is a free to play and free to learn child-friendly environment.

The 3-day model classroom set up concluded with two classrooms (KG1 & 2) fully furnished with modern learning materials and self-developed learning centres. These learning centres were set up within the classrooms namely;

- Hospital centre – this centre introduces the kids to the hospital environment. Who and what can be found in the hospital, the importance of the hospital and the friendly nature of the hospital.
- Home centre – this centre is an embodiment of the homes in which the kids live in. A typical look and feel of the bedroom, kitchen, sitting room and other parts of the home.
- Sand tray centre – this helps the kids to move their wrists in reverse in a flexible manner. The essence is to enable the kids to write or draw freely.
- Construction centre – this centre is made up of many different shapes of wooden blocks used in construction. The kids learn the names and forms of the shapes while building any object of interest.
- Self-registration centre – this is where the kids have their names on cards with special/unique designs by them. They place them in a miniature pigeon hole according to their group colors. This exercise helps the kids to identify colors, keep up with process and procedures and know which of their mates is present in or absent from school.
- Book centre – with a variety of books at this centre, the kids read and relate the items at the various centres in the stories as illustrated with colors and images.

Mr. Godwin Akpavor, the lead trainer and special interventionist for early childhood development programs emphasised on the for KG teachers to be interactive and creative whiles developing learning modules for the kids. He said, ‘Through interaction, kids are able to acquire new vocabularies which will be the foundation for language’. He encouraged parents and guardians to also be well resourced to be auxiliary teachers for the kids at home. He was of the opinion that the classroom and any other place should be a facilitated play centre.

Speaking on the importance of the learning centre to the Osodoku District, Madam Victoria Yeboah, the coordinator for early childhood expressed her utmost joy for a dream come through. ‘The time has come for our kids to learn in practicality and doing away with abstract way of learning’ she said.

The program was facilitated by four trained early modern model classroom teachers. Five local KG teachers were trained to start using the integrated approach which is an add-on to the GES KG curriculum to build a formidable basic education foundation.

PICTURES





