

Learning Environments in the Early Years: A Case Study of an Early Childhood Centre in Australia

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Abstract : Children's experiences in the early years build and shape the brain. The early years learning environment plays a significantly important role in children's development. A well-constructed environment will facilitate children's physical and mental well-being. This case study used an early learning centre in Australia called SDN Hurstville as an example, describing the learning environment in the centre, as well as analyzing the functions of the affordances. In addition, this report talks about the sustainability of learning in the centre, and how the environment supports cultural diversity and indigenous learning. The early years for children are significant. Different elements in the early childhood centre should work together to help children develop better. This case study found that the natural environment and the artificial environment are both critical to children; only when they work together can children have better development in physical and mental well-being and have a sense of belonging when playing and learning in the centre.

Keywords : early childhood center, early childhood education, learning environment, Australia

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