

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CLASSROOM SETTING IN STUDENT LEARNING

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The psychology of the classroom setting is a fascinating and complex field of study that explores how the physical environment impacts students' learning, behavior, and overall academic experience. It entails analyzing various aspects, including seating arrangements, classroom layout, decorations, and even lighting. Understanding the psychological impact of these factors can help educators create an environment that fosters optimal learning and student success.

One crucial aspect of the classroom setting that influences student psychology is the seating arrangement. Traditional classroom setups often consist of rows of desks, with the teacher at the front. This arrangement promotes a more traditional and teacher-centered approach to learning, with the focus mainly on direct instruction. While this might be effective for certain subjects or teaching styles, it can also create a sense of hierarchy and power imbalance between the teacher and students.

In recent years, educators have started to explore alternative seating arrangements, such as flexible seating. This approach allows students to choose where and how they would like to sit, be it at a table, on a bean bag chair, or even on the floor. The underlying idea is that when students have more control over their seating, they feel more engaged and empowered in their learning process. Research has shown that this approach can foster collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking, as well as reduce disruptive behaviors in the classroom.

Another important aspect of the classroom setting is the layout and organization of the physical space. A cluttered and disorganized classroom can have negative effects on student psychology. It can cause feelings of overwhelm, anxiety, and distractibility. On the other hand, a well-structured and visually appealing environment can promote a sense of calm, focus, and motivation.

Teachers can enhance the classroom setting by considering the sensory aspects of the environment, such as lighting and color. Natural light has been linked to improved mood, cognitive function, and overall well-being. Therefore, classrooms with ample windows or well-placed artificial lighting can contribute to a positive psychological atmosphere. Similarly, color psychology suggests that different colors can evoke specific emotions and behaviors. For example, blue encourages calmness and concentration, while yellow stimulates creativity and optimism. Educators can strategically incorporate these colors into the classroom setting to enhance the desired mood and atmosphere.

The use of classroom decorations also plays a significant role in student psychology. A visually stimulating and enriching environment can enhance students' curiosity, motivation, and overall engagement in their learning. Posters, charts, and artwork can serve as visual aids that support learning objectives and create a welcoming and inspiring atmosphere. However, it is important to strike a balance, as an overload of stimuli can lead to distraction and reduced attention spans.

In conclusion, the psychology of the classroom setting is a multifaceted field that examines how the physical environment influences student behavior, learning, and well-being. By considering factors such as seating arrangements, layout, lighting, and decorations, educators can create an environment that fosters positive psychological states and enhances student success. Understanding the impact of the classroom setting on student psychology can lead to more effective teaching strategies, increased student engagement, and ultimately, improved academic outcomes.

References:

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