



Start at my Feet

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Effect of the Community on Teaching and Learning

The community can have a large and serious impact on a child's life as the quality of life and quality of the child's education can be affected.

Before going on my bridging days, I had previous experience in schools so I believed that the child's quality of life had an effect on their learning previously. I feel like this has been proved by my experiences as the schools I have been in have been in similar communities and similar problems arise in these communities. These include:

- Children not having the correct uniform,
- Children being behind their expected level for language skills and being unable to speak correctly,
- Numeracy skills are also behind,
- Increased number of ALN children in the school,
- Decreased interaction between children and parents which leads to poor social and communication skills,
- Percentage of free school meals is significantly higher than the national average.

After speaking to members of staff about the communities that these schools are in, I found that my beliefs seemed to be supported by the information that I gathered while I was in the schools. The members of staff I spoke to felt that the children's home life does have an effect on their education as without proper interaction with their parents the children struggle to develop their language skills and their reading skills at a natural rate which is why some pupils in schools in deprived areas have assessment results which are below the national average. This means that the members of staff must spend more time with the individual children in order to get each child to the level that they are expected to be at.

Also, with some of the children in these deprived areas they may come from low income families which means they could be suffering from malnutrition which has an impact on their school life. A malnourished child is more likely to be tired, more irritable and stressed which means they won't be focused on their lessons so won't learn anything. As well as this the child might be more prone to getting into trouble with other children due to the lack of proper and healthy food. Along with this, children from low income families may not be able to afford the correct uniform or have the nicest clothes so that could make children vulnerable to bullying.

Effect of the community on the organization of the school

It is important that schools have some parents from the community that they're in on the board of governors. This allows the school to better understand the community around it and will give the school more of an insight and better ideas on how to tailor the curriculum to suite the pupils.



FIGURE 1

Effect of the community on the curriculum

Before I went into the schools I believed that some schools have to tailor their curriculum when it comes to subjects such as religion as the main religion in the community may not be Christianity, which means some children may not be able to participate in certain activities due to their religious beliefs, e.g. the Christmas nativity.

Also, the curriculum could vary depending on what the school grounds are like and what facilities are available. So, if a school has large open areas of turfed surfaces then they are more likely to have a curriculum which leans more towards physical activity rather than a school that has no green open spaces and is completely tarmacked rather than having some turfed areas.

With the new curriculum that is going to be introduced in 2022, it is more of a set of guidelines rather than concrete requirements. This will give schools even more freedom to allow them to alter their curriculum to what the needs of the community are.