

Case Study: Effective Management of the Learning Environment

Context

Reception class (age 4-5)

Humanities theme:

"Our Community"

The teacher wanted children to explore the question:

"What makes our community special?"

Learning Environment Design

Investigation Station

Included:

- Local maps
- Photographs of community buildings
- Postcards
- Local newspaper cuttings

Children freely explored these resources.

Role Play Area

Transformed into a community hub.

Roles included:

- Shopkeeper
 - Librarian
 - Police officer
 - Postal worker
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Outdoor Area

Children undertook:

- Community walks
- Traffic surveys
- Building observations

Photographs were displayed for discussion.

Interactive Displays

A large enquiry board displayed:

What we know

What we want to find out

What we discovered

Children added photographs, drawings and comments.

Teacher's Role

The teacher:

- Carefully organised resources
- Modelled questioning
- Encouraged discussion
- Observed children's interests
- Adapted provision accordingly

Rather than directing every activity, the teacher acted as a facilitator.

Learning Intentions

Children:

- Used subject vocabulary confidently
 - Increased participation in discussion
 - Demonstrated understanding of local places
 - Made links between school, home and community
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Curriculum for Wales Links

This learning supported:

Cynefin

Children developed understanding of their local area.

Ethical, Informed Citizens

Children explored community roles and responsibilities.

Ambitious, Capable Learners

Children conducted investigations and asked questions.

Enterprising, Creative Contributors

Children developed ideas through role play and collaborative learning.

Humanities Area of Learning and Experience

Humanities Statements of What Matters:

“Enquiry, exploration and investigation inspire curiosity about the world, its past, present and future” (children investigate through play, artefacts, visits, observation, discussion)

“Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs”
(children explore communities, cultural experiences, celebrations)

“Our natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions”
(Children exploring their natural environment – physical and human features)