

Warm Up Your Centers

With a REAL Make-Over



Highlights

Why? How? And What is a Pre-School Center Make-Over?

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Hot Springs Community Learning Center

Located: next door to Hot Springs Elementary School

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What is a Make-Over?

Appealing to the senses...

- Visual: Color & Lighting
- Sound: Music & Sounds of nature
- Smell: Flowers, herbs, spices
- Taste: Interesting, delicious foods to taste

Why do a make-over?

Seasonal

Behavioral

Brain Development

- Adults >

- Children>

What can a make-over look like in a Preschool or After School Room?

Language.

A real adult sized comfortable chair
Cool pillows, throw blankets
Lamps

Science / Nature.

Real items from nature
nature noises CD
National Geographic magazines
real binoculars, magnifying glasses, measuring tools

Pretend.

Real items from a home
costumes vs. smocks
mirrors
lamps

Art.

items from nature for collage and to paint with
textured material for the shelves & collage
prints of real artists art work
real art books
Provocations

Manipulatives / Math.

Baskets
real collection items (bottle caps,
buttons, corks, paper clips, cotton
balls, flat marbles, dry beans)

Alone Space.

decorative tissue box
bag of herbs to smell
Nice journal book and pencil

Bathrooms.

magazines
Curtains

Parent Area.

Journal book for comments
Photo framed art work

Everywhere.

Real items from a home
Material on shelves
plants, flowers, herbs
Baskets
Provocations
Music
Yummy smells from essential oils

How to do a make-over in your Center?

Teachers > think about your activity centers and your teacher area

Directors > think about your Parent Area, the yard, and your office

Start small.

Pick just one area to focus on.

Make a list of the problem areas in each center

Put something (even just one thing) in and see what happens.

Borrow things.

Ask parents to let the center *borrow* a specific item (s) .

Look around your own house and let the center borrow something for a month

Shop.

Thrift Stores, Goodwill, Yard Sales. (let the center borrow your items)

Rotate things in and out.

Put something out for a little while.

Note how the children and other staff respond

Take it out and replace it with something else.

When do you do a make-over in your Center?

Tomorrow.

Think about your favorite activity center.

Bring something in from your home and put it in there.

Notice what happens.

Email or call us. info@hsclc.org or 622-9575