

Education Specifications

The Learning Environment is Evolving

Be sensitive to the way students learn

The educational experiences of today's students are different than the ones many of us experienced as children. As research provides better information about teaching and learning, the "spirit of the times" change with each successive generation. The learning environment must reflect and support student needs of today.

There is an ongoing shift from a teacher-centered lecture only model to a student-centered, active-engagement environment. Educators understand students require a diversity of learning experiences. As a result, the role of the teacher changes from the one who solely imparts knowledge to one who also acts as a facilitator. The shift is precipitated by a fundamental belief that children exhibit multiple intelligences, and children learn and respond differently.

Direct instruction of singular subjects may no longer remain the only method available for student learning experiences. While direct instruction remains important, students today are presented with a much greater range of options. Project-based, collaborative, and self-directed learning are integral to the learning experience. Subjects become naturally integrated, relevant, and may be presented in a variety of ways. Students learn to work independently and together. Students who receive instruction in their preferred learning style, while also learning to collaborate and communicate with others, are learning how to learn. They become life-long, self-directed learners.

Before discussing the built environment, let us acknowledge some of the changes happening in classrooms today. Acknowledging these changes is not meant as reference to a specific pedagogy but to the fluidity of learning, and more importantly, to a broad reorientation between teacher and student.



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