

# INTEREST CENTER

EXPLORE. EXPERIENCE. IDENTIFY

SAMPLE





## **CURRICULUM VISION and DESIGN**

### **VISUAL DESIGN**

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Thanks to all students and faculty who have been part of these courses and enriched the curriculum with their perspectives and practices.

# Interest Center Curriculum

Explore | Experience | Identity

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# Overview

## Interest Centers

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## Rationale

Dr. Howard Gardner, author of *Frames of Mind*, in his Theory of **Multiple Intelligences** points out that school systems often focus on a narrow range of intelligence that involves primarily Verbal/Linguistic and Logical/Mathematical skills.

While knowledge and skills in these areas are essential for surviving and thriving in the world, he suggests that there are at least six other kinds of intelligence that are important to fuller human development and that almost everyone has available to develop.

These include: **Visual / Spatial, Bodily / Kinesthetic, Musical, Naturalist, Interpersonal, and Intrapersonal intelligence.**

For this reason, it is important to encourage children to explore and exercise all of their intelligences. Creating a rich, nurturing, and stimulating environment filled with interesting materials, lays the foundation for **healthier, happier, and brighter children.**

Students who have these kinds of experiences know many ways to learn almost anything.

Interest Centers provides an environment for students to explore and exercise all of their intelligences. The Interest Centers uses this premise to help give students exposure to fresh stimuli and assist teachers in identifying student tendencies and strengths in particular intelligences.

Knowing one's talents gives one the chance to engage in a particular field and apply one's skills elsewhere, while knowing one's strengths also helps teachers prepare lessons because it enables them to experiment with different teaching methods based on the needs of their learners.



# Understanding Multiple Intelligences in Practice

There are six Interest Centers, each focusing on the development of an intelligence. The activities in each center will naturally involve the intra-personal and inter-personal intelligences and so these two intelligences are not assigned independent centers. At the same time, activities in each center organically involve the use of other intelligences. For example, music may be used during the Bodily / Kinesthetic Interest Center or a poem in the Musical Interest Center.



## **Bodily / Kinesthetic Interest Center**

Involves physical coordination and dexterity, using fine and gross motor skills, and expressing oneself or learning through physical activities. It may be exercised by playing with blocks and other construction materials, dancing, playing various activities, sports and games, participating in plays or make-believe, and using various kinds of manipulatives to solve problems or to learn.



## **Verbal / Linguistic Interest Center**

Involves reading, writing, speaking, and conversing in one's own or foreign languages. It may be exercised through reading interesting books, playing word, board or card games, listening to recordings, using various kinds of computer technology, and participating in conversation and discussions.





### **Spatial / Visual Interest Center**

Involves visual perception of the environment, the ability to create and manipulate mental images, and the orientation of the body in space. It may be developed through experiences in the graphic and plastic arts, sharpening observation skills, solving mazes and other spatial tasks, and exercising in imagery and active imagination.



### **Logical / Mathematical Interest Center**

Involves number and computing skills, recognizing patterns and relationships, timeliness and order, and the ability to solve different kinds of problems through logic. It may be exercised through classifying and sequencing activities, playing number and logic games, and solving various kinds of puzzles.



### **Musical Interest Center**

Involves understanding and expressing oneself through music and rhythmic movements or dance, composing, playing, or conducting music. It may be exercised by listening to a variety of recordings, engaging in rhythmic games and activities, and singing, dancing, or playing various instruments.



### **Naturalist Interest Center**

Involves understanding the natural world of plants and animals, noticing their characteristics, and categorizing them. It generally involves keen observation and the ability to classify other things as well. It may be exercised by exploring nature, making collection of objects, studying them and grouping them.



# Interest Centers at a Glance

## What

Interest Centers provides an environment for students to explore and exercise all of their intelligences.

## Why

Knowledge and skills in the different intelligences is important to fuller human development. Interest Centers helps both teachers and students identify strengths and proclivities towards certain intelligences.

This knowledge helps teachers in lesson planning. For students, knowledge of their strengths opens up opportunities to engage in that domain and apply their skills outside the domain.

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**Attitudes**

- Commitment
- Confidence
- Creativity
- Curiosity
- Enthusiasm

**Skills**

- Metacognition
- Exploration

**When**

Interest Centers work once a week for a one hour period and students engage in activities of each center for a period of four to five weeks. Interest Centers run over the course of the school year.

**Where**

Classrooms or specially allocated spaces can be used as the site for Interest Centers where all materials can be laid out.

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