

## **Educational centers**

**Dr. JihanDamouniKhriesh**

### **Introduction**

While doing my job as an educational guide, I asked my students at an advanced stage of the school year to build "educational centers" on different topics, which I explained for about an hour about the subject, but I chose to read at least every student a theoretical background on the subject before starting the task in practice.

It is worth mentioning that the group studies at DavidYallin College, and they are mostly from East Jerusalem, and we note that their Arabic and English are perfect, but we see that most of them find it rather difficult to analyze a scientific article in Hebrew.

I asked the students to read scientific references on the subject, but after a week the students returned to me asking me for titles for articles or books on the subject, I went to prepare a list of references to the desired articles, so I was surprised that the Arabic sources have been almost scarce (I found only one article) and I have rarely found sources in English, but I found a huge amount of sources in Hebrew and decided to write a clear and direct article in Arabic where I later gave it to my students and translated to English.

### **What is an educational center?**

An educational center is a type of educational environment in which a student learns independently and effectively.

It is difficult to define an educational center so that it fits all the existing centers with their diversity and differences.

There are definitions that stress the educational center in terms of constructive design and external appearance, as it contains many creative teaching aids.

There are definitions that stress the concept of self-learning, which means to focus on the development of an independent learner. Other definitions are mainly based on activities and content.

From this point it is possible to arrive at the definition of the educational center with a comprehensive definition with reference to all internal aspects (content and content) and external organizational (design) as follows: -

The educational center is a specific, organized and pre-prepared educational environment for a specific group of students, which includes distinctive and diverse educational materials and methods, in addition to stimuli and references related to the topic of the educational center.

### **How to activate the Learning Center**

The student advances towards the educational center so that he gets to know its title and topic, which arouses their curiosity to start learning by going to the various and interesting activities in it. Activities are usually built in a sequence from the easiest to the most difficult and from the old to the new in a way that helps the student to reach a stage of awareness of the goals that were identified when building the educational center (Nof, 1997).

The educational center is built in a way that enables the student to receive continuous feedback, which enables him to evaluate his work after each stage. The transition between stages is carried out with the help of cards that are usually found in each center and called guidance cards that are a description of each activity in order to facilitate the sequential built work (Cohen, 2006).

Upon completion, there will be suggestions for additional activities regarding the student's personal focus period, in addition to his speed of progress and his personal introduction.

### **What is the role of the teacher?**

The role of the teacher is a guide, in addition to that he intervenes only when needed to provide advice or to stimulate the student's initiative (Kashti et.al., 1997).

### **The educational center foundations:**

The student has a great curiosity:

Students learn in different ways and their comprehension speed varies.

-It is important for the student to acquire behaviors and life skills during the educational process (Nof, 1997).

The student has social needs that the school must meet.

-There are radical differences between students, especially in values and principles, and in the way they approach and deal with different situations (Levin, 1998). While activating the educational center it is important to focus on what the student does "and not what the teacher teaches, which reinforces the concept of "respect", respect for the student and his or her own feelings about his/her achievements (Zilbershtein, 1994).

The educational center should provide the student with learning possibilities in different ways, for example: reading a book, watching and observing something, doing a science experiment, event resources, creative illustrations, pictures, disc or video, games, story books, worksheets, tools to do an experiment, and various purposes (Cohen, 2006).

-The educational center should be exciting for the student in terms of contents, activation and external design.

-Reinforcement is by satisfying the student's curiosity and challenge in work and activities, in addition to supporting and encouraging the teacher to have the comments of his classmates on what he is doing. It is also possible to introduce prizes and material reinforcements (Zilbershtein, 1994).

### **Objectives of the educational center**

The objectives of the educational center are divided into several types:

1-Educational objectives: - related to the subject where the focus is on acquiring and strengthening the basic skills related to the subject of the educational center (Levin, 1998).

2-Objectives related to the development of the student's personality, such as self-awareness, developing the spirit of responsibility and creativity among the student, the ability to evaluate and self-criticism, developing the spirit of responsibility and creativity among the student, the ability to evaluate and self-criticism, increasing the student's self-confidence, and providing him with the opportunity to succeed(Nof, 1997).

3-Objectives concerned with developing the student's curiosity, such as: giving the student the opportunity to discover things for himself, stimulating the spirit of initiative, developing personal work skills to enrich the student, introducing the element of pleasure in work (Cohen et.al., 2006)

**Conclusion** The use of the educational center as an educational method depends on the philosophical educational theory that emphasizes the student's position as a center of educational science. The educational center is a visual model or a fixed educational site that the student advances towards to carry out various and interesting activities during

which he achieves his inclinations, desires and needs, in addition to acquiring different educational and social concepts and skills. The educational center is usually built by the teacher, but there is no objection to the constructive involvement of students. There are various objectives of the educational center, the most important of which are the development of an effective and independent learner, curious, researcher and critic. It is important for the teacher to plan all the activities in a precise and specific way as well as the way the student will go from his place to the educational center.

#### References:

1. Cohen, R., Ben Pshat, Berkovits, E. (2006). Visual texts in class. Tel Aviv. Mofet Institution.
2. Emmanuel, D. (forthcoming). Environments of development of self-direction in teaching and learning- control challenge or message.
3. Kashti, I., Arieli, M., Shlensky, Sh. (1997). Education and teaching Lexicon. Tel Aviv: Ramot edition. Tel Aviv University.
4. Levin, T. (1998). From linear to complex teaching plan. In: Sharan., Sh., Levin, T. (editors). Innovative school, Ramot edition. Tel Aviv University.
5. Nof, R. (1997). Teaching center. In: Education and teaching Lexicon, teaching center. Tel Aviv: Ramot edition. Tel Aviv University.
6. Zilbershtein, M., Berkovits, E., Eyal, T. (1994). Empowerment of a student with self-direction- thinking team report. Jerusalem: Ministry of Education and Culture.