



# Nurturing Knowledge

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# **Case Study #1: One Teacher's Experience**

# Why Begin Early?: The Opportunity Hypothesis

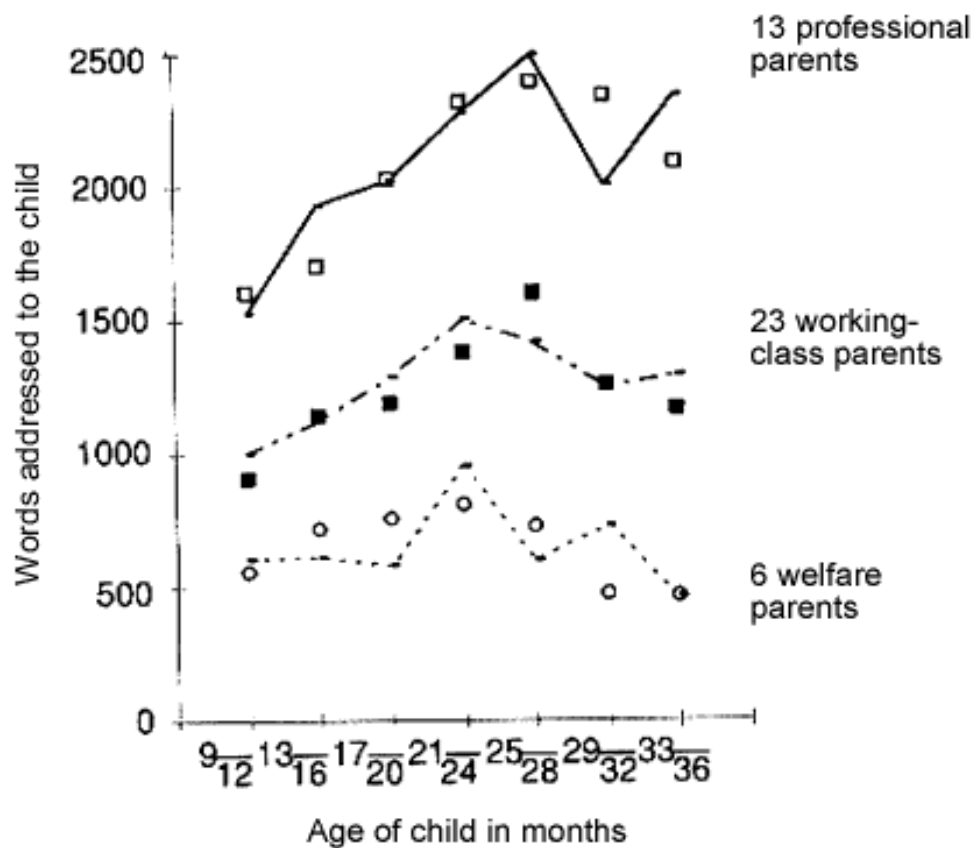
- Learning to read and write:  
Developmentally appropriate practice
  - Begins at birth
  - Reading and writing occur interchangeably
  - Children need to understand the purposes of using literacy
  - Literacy practice must build on good early childhood practice

# Poverty...



- Interactions...

# Hart and Risley...



# The Need Hypothesis: Risk factors

- Stark, and triangulated differentials in access to print for children who come from middle- and lower-income neighborhoods
- Resources, Language, Social Networking

# Beginning Kindergarten Students' School Readiness Skills by Socioeconomic Status (SES)

- )

	Lowest SES	Highest SES
• Ability to recognize letters of alphabet	39%	85%
• Ability to identify beginning sounds of words	10%	51%
• Identifies primary colors	69%	90%
• Counts to 20	48%	68%
• Writes own name	54%	76%
• Amount of time having been read to prior to kindergarten	25 hours	1,000 hours
• Accumulated experience with words	13 million	45 million

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# What do we need to do?

- Better understand the mechanisms that underlie risk factors
- Create better connections to effective interventions



# What is literacy?

- Content knowledge
- Procedural Knowledge
- Dispositions



wonder



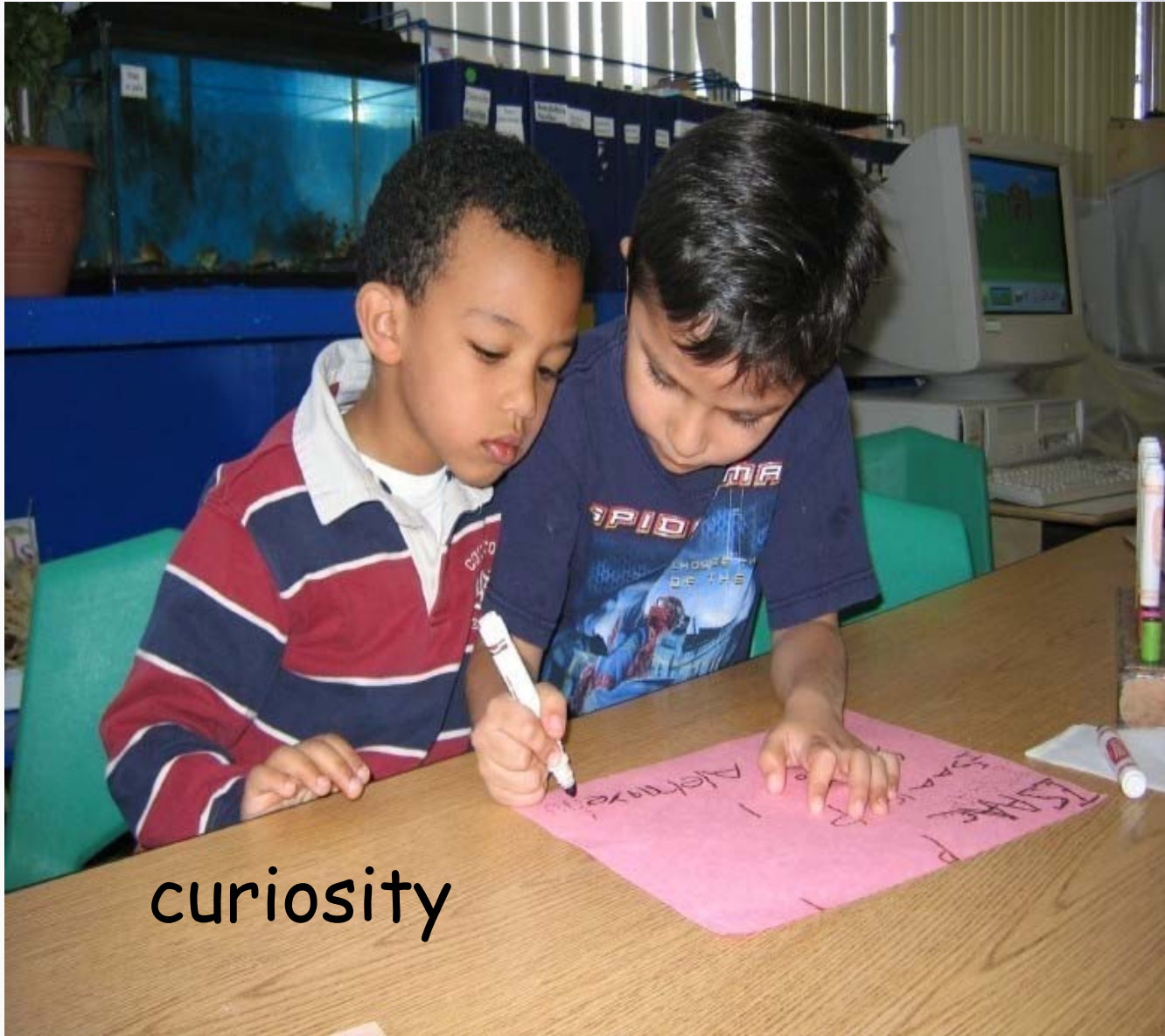
discovery

inquiry

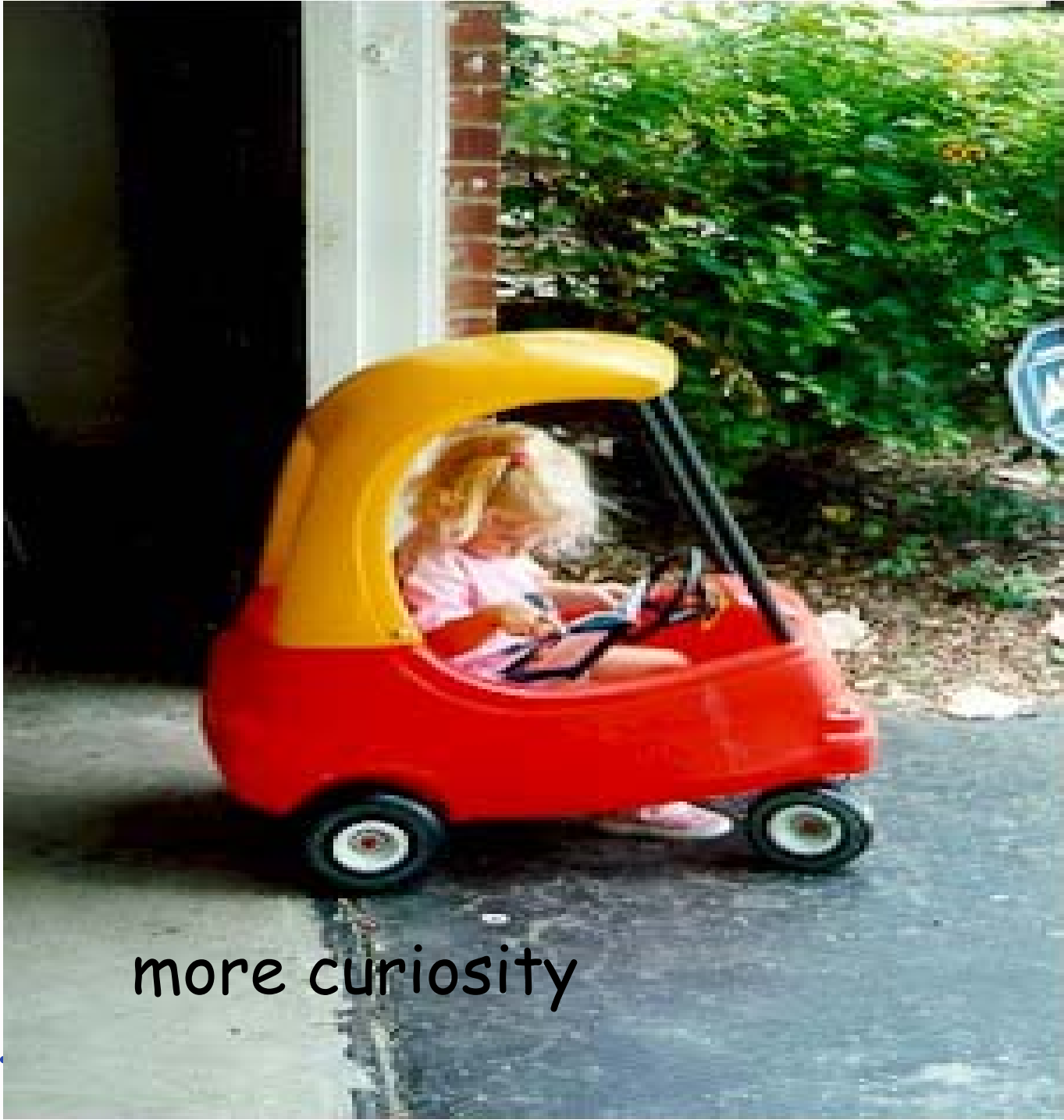




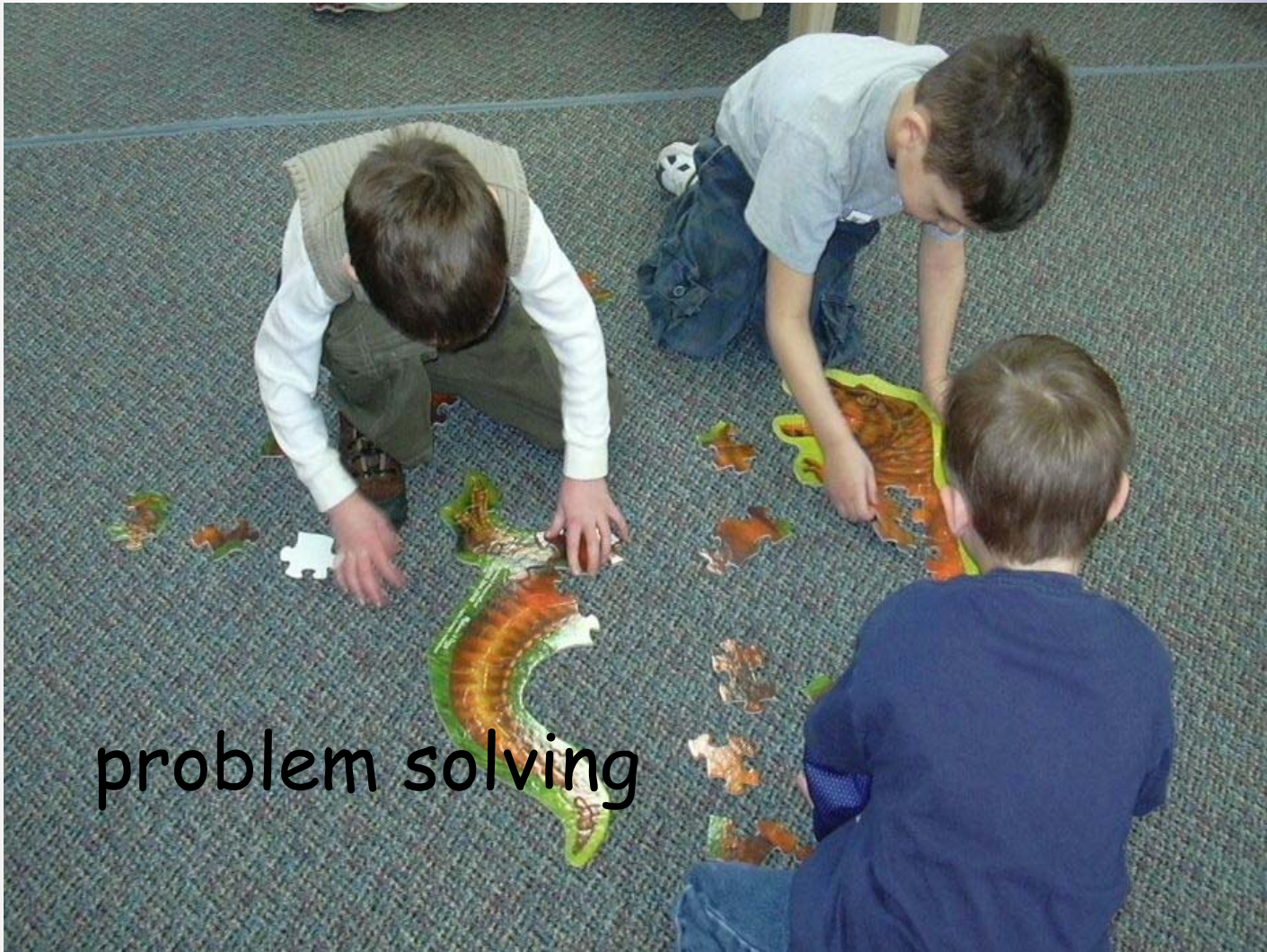
building



curiosity



more curiosity



problem solving

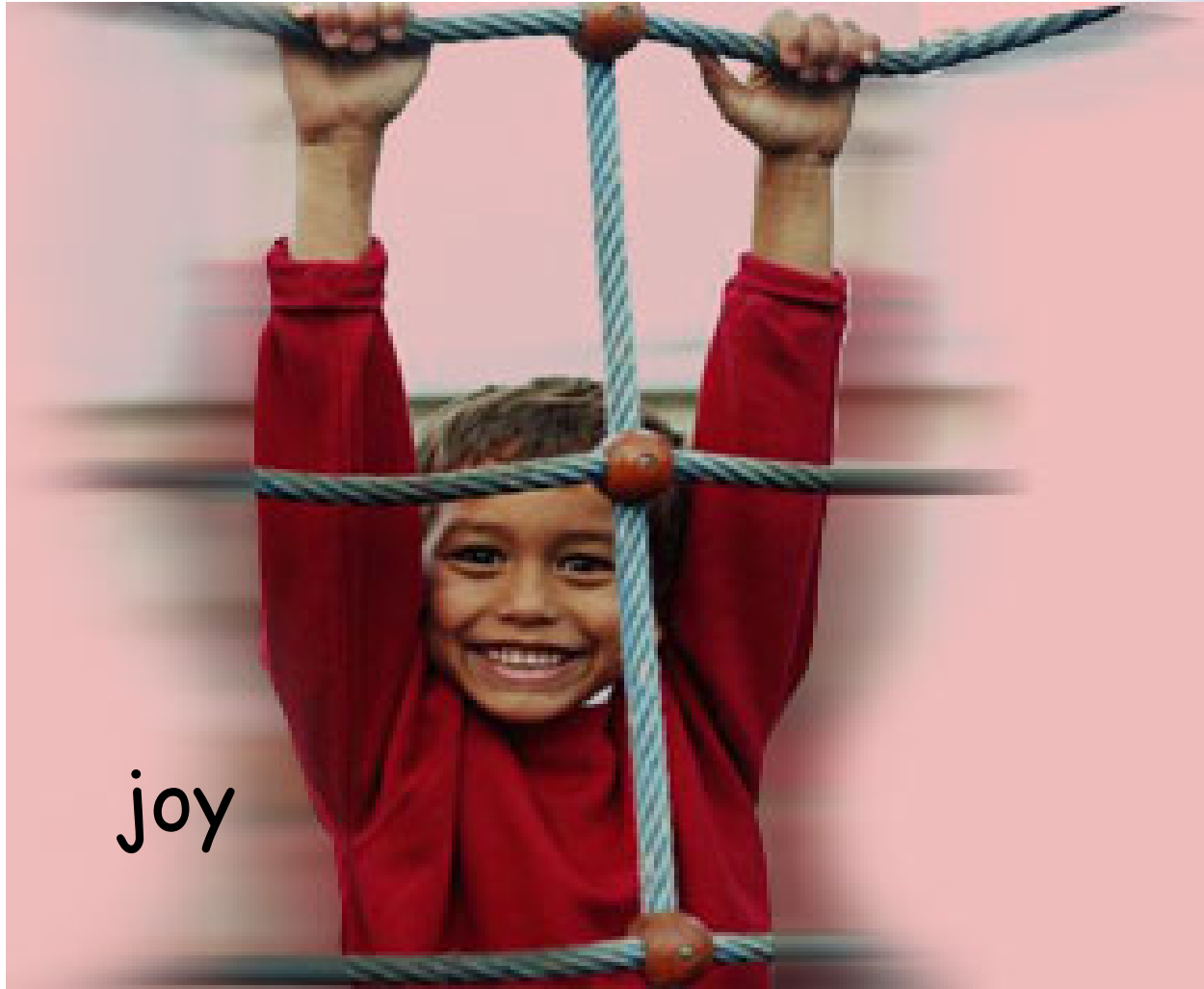




creativity

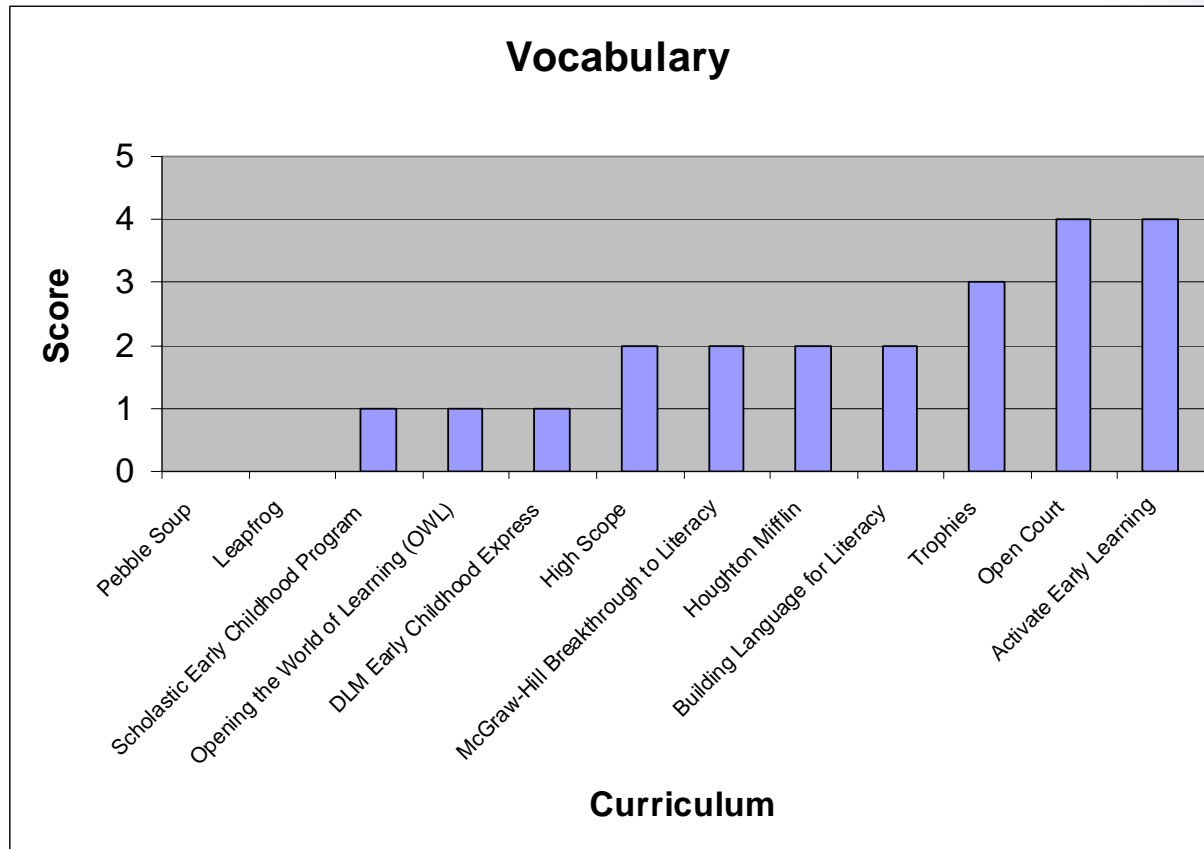


sharing

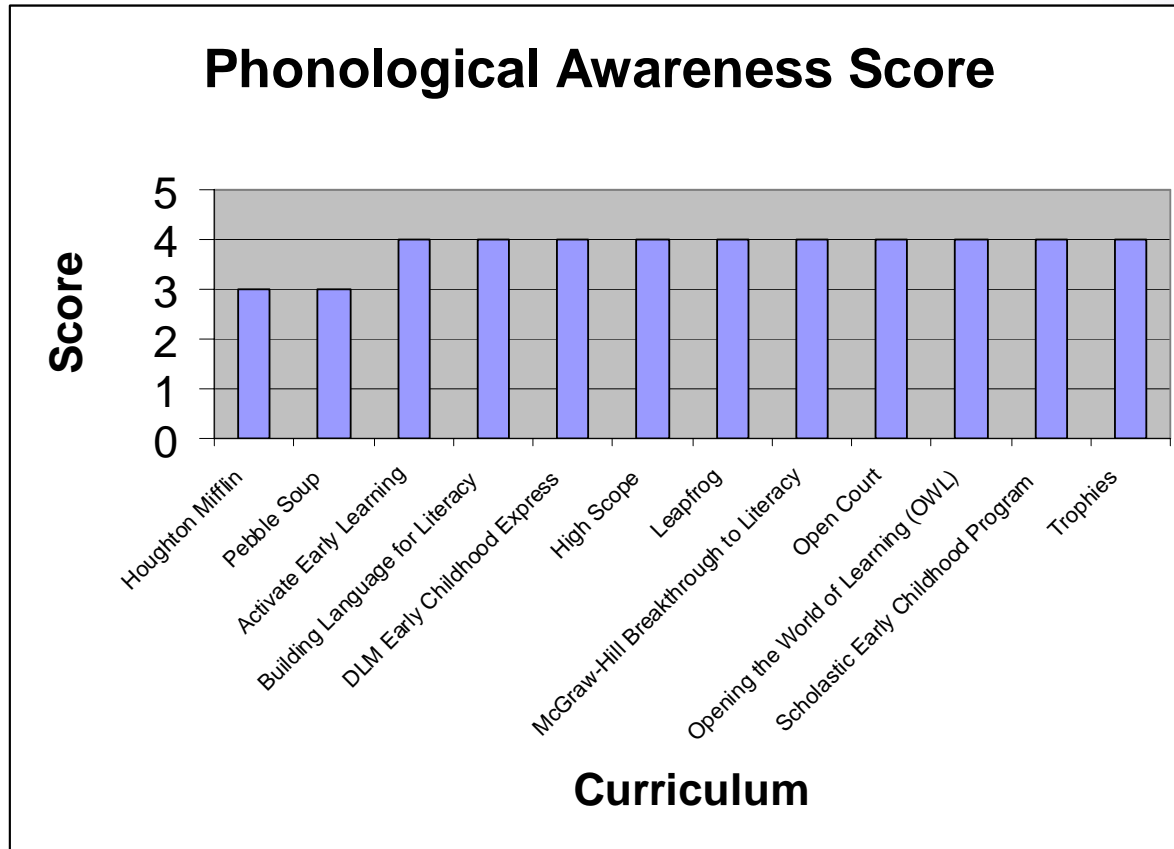


joy

# Current Pre-K programs



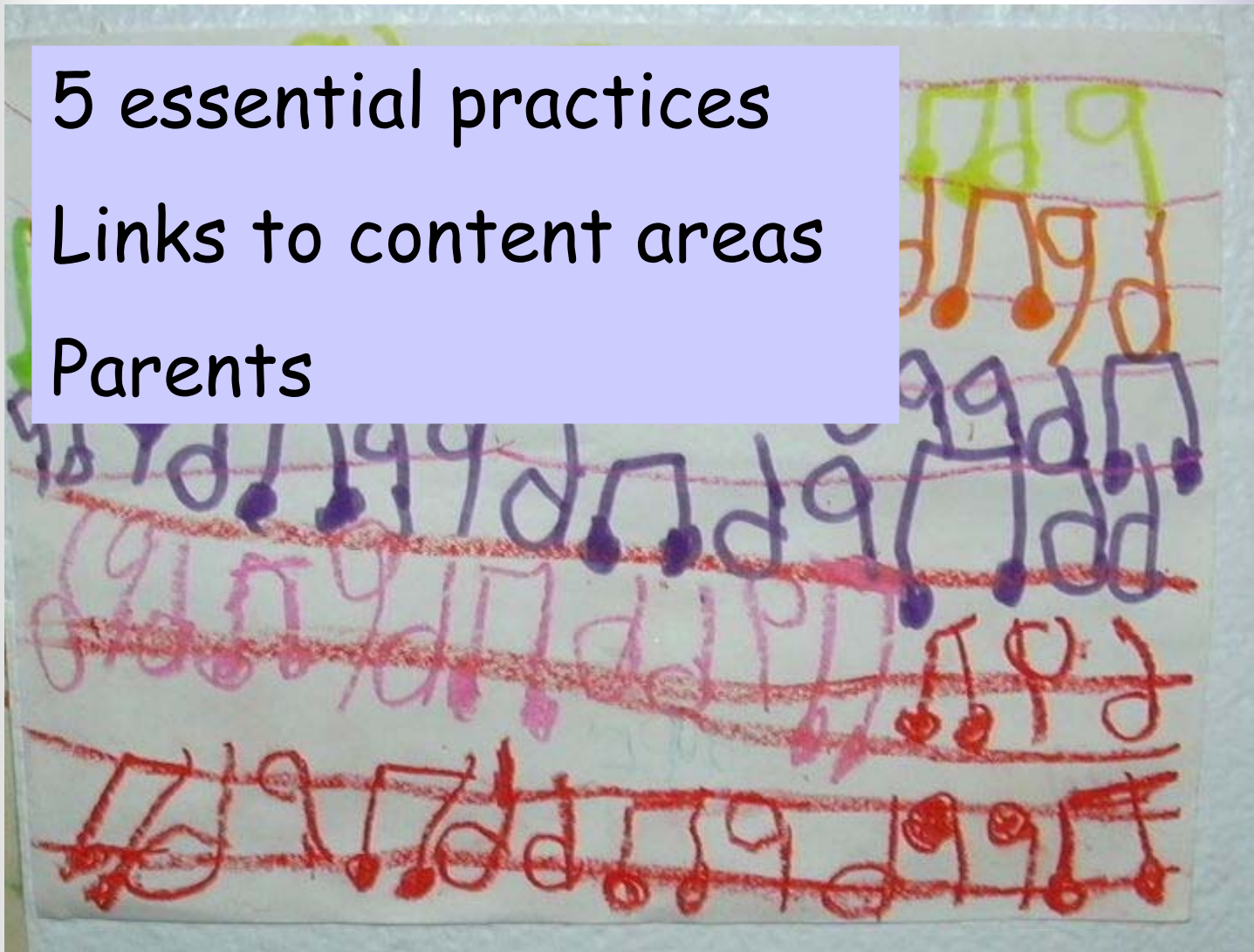
# Current Programs



5 essential practices

Links to content areas

Parents



# The Five Essentials

- Supportive learning environment
- Songs, rhymes, and word play
- Storybook Reading
- Developmental writing
- Literacy and play

# Supportive Learning Environment

- Child-related displays
- Functional print
- Books plus cozy corner book areas
- Orderly environment
- Teacher talk and interaction
- Lots of love and positive reinforcement



# Environmental Features

- Space
  - Effects of carved space
- Toys
  - Cognitive toys that engage children minds
- Clusters of objects
- Authentic objects
- Culturally specific objects

# What's Wrong with this Picture?





















# Child Related Displays





# Setting up of a literacy play area

- Principles
  - Definition
  - Adaptation
  - familiarity
- Types of props
  - Appropriate
  - Authentic
  - Useful

# Songs, rhymes and word play

- Rhyming helps children develop phonological awareness
- Alliteration helps children develop a sense of beginning sounds
- Segmenting and blending helps children to hear the individual sounds in words

# Interactive storybook reading

- Considerations

- Genre
- Purposes for reading
- Group size
- Questioning: What is it designed for—get cha' or are you paying attention? Or thinking?
- Open-ended responses: What are these for?
- How to extend learning: gingerbread man--

# Interactive Reading

- Format
- Illustrations
- Language
- Text/features
- Content

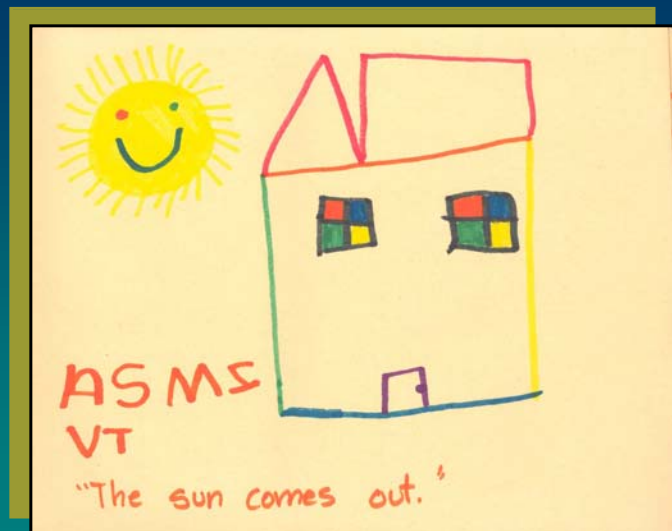


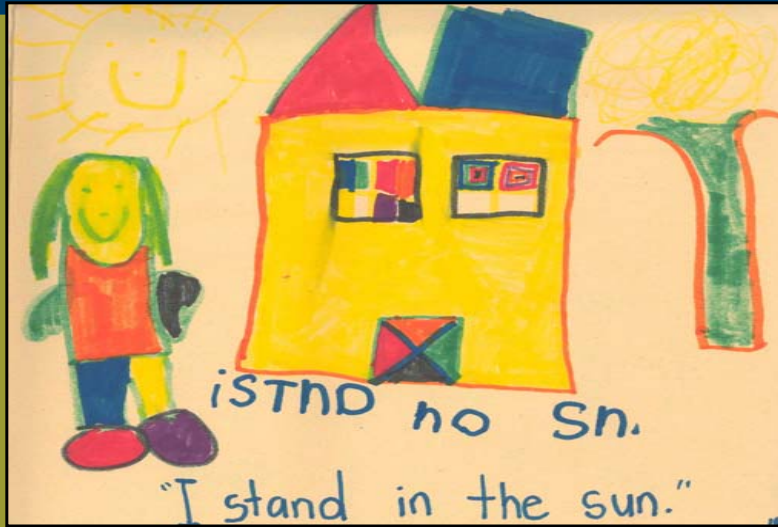
# Developmental Writing

- Allows children to connect sounds and letter names
- Focuses on phonological awareness – the alphabetic principle
- Combines different types of symbol-making numbers, letters, pictures
  - Writing center

VASUSNLR  
"Houses"

Connie





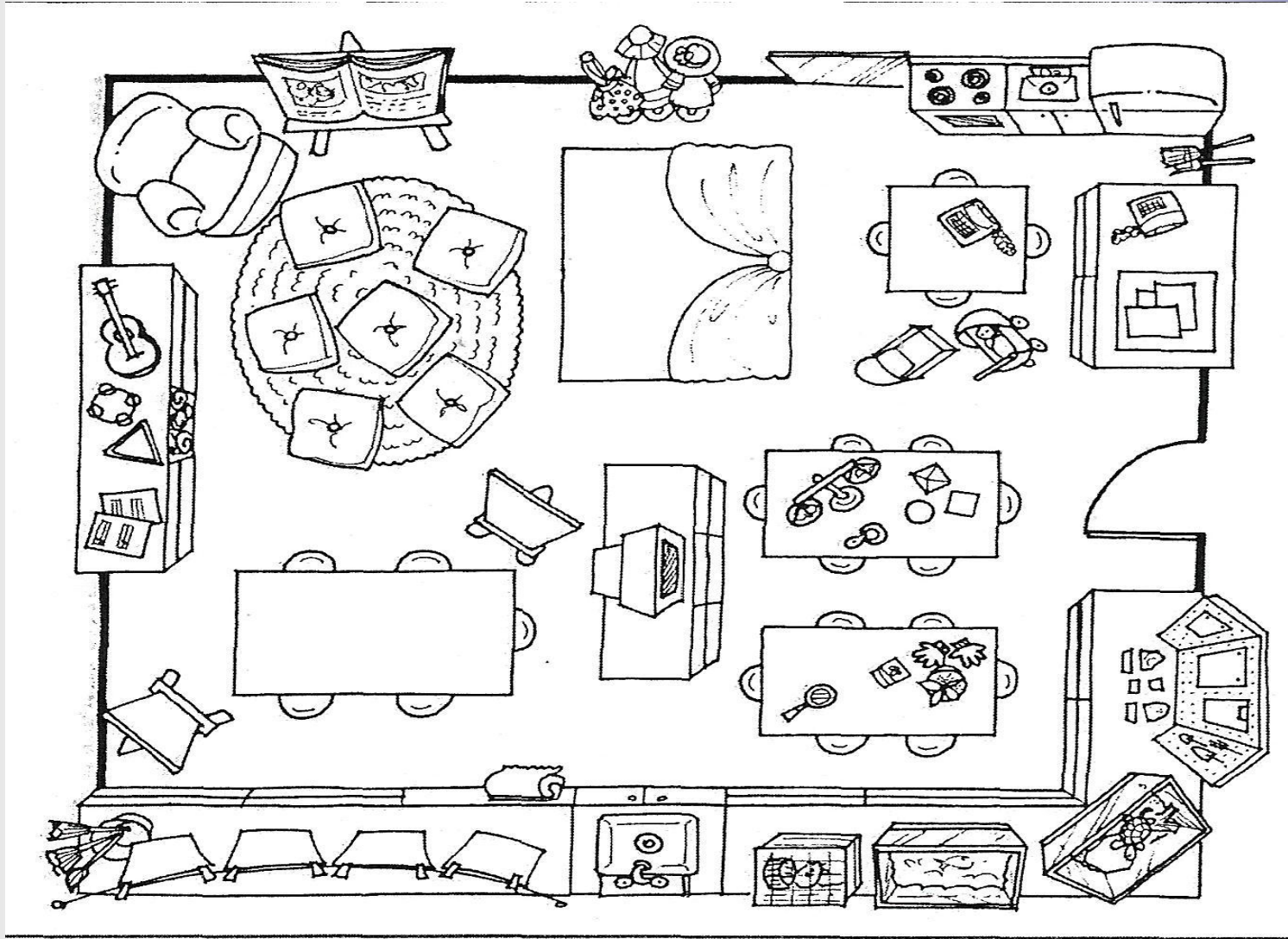
# Literacy related Play

- A critical feature in early development
- Why is play important in early literacy?
  - Language/vocabulary
  - Developing narrative skills
  - Zone of proximal development
  - Development of abstract thinking

# A content rich curriculum

Unit	Major Concepts	Materials Need	PreKindergarten Guidelines
Magnetism	<p>Magnetic force attracts things made of iron and steel</p> <p>Magnets have many uses and help us do many things</p>	<p>Objects to test and sort</p> <p>Books</p> <p>Magnets</p>	<p>The child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• uses one more sense to observe phenomena</li> <li>• analyzes patterns and relationships</li> </ul>
Colors	<p>There are many different colors and they have different names. Primary colors are red, yellow and blue</p>	<p>Books</p> <p>Paint</p> <p>Colored paper</p> <p>Color swatches</p> <p>Food colors</p>	<p>The child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• uses different colors to create meaning</li> <li>• uses new vocabulary in everyday communication</li> </ul>
Sound	<p>We can identify things by their sounds</p> <p>Sound is created by vibrations of objects</p> <p>Sounds can be high/low, loud/soft</p>	<p>Musical instruments</p> <p>Records</p> <p>Kitchen food</p> <p>Containers</p> <p>Chutes and marbles</p> <p>Popcorn cooking</p>	<p>The child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies similarities and differences</li> <li>• Begins to distinguish among sounds of several instruments.</li> </ul>

# Supportive learning environment



# SCIENCE

display area

window

seedlings in paper cups

turtle

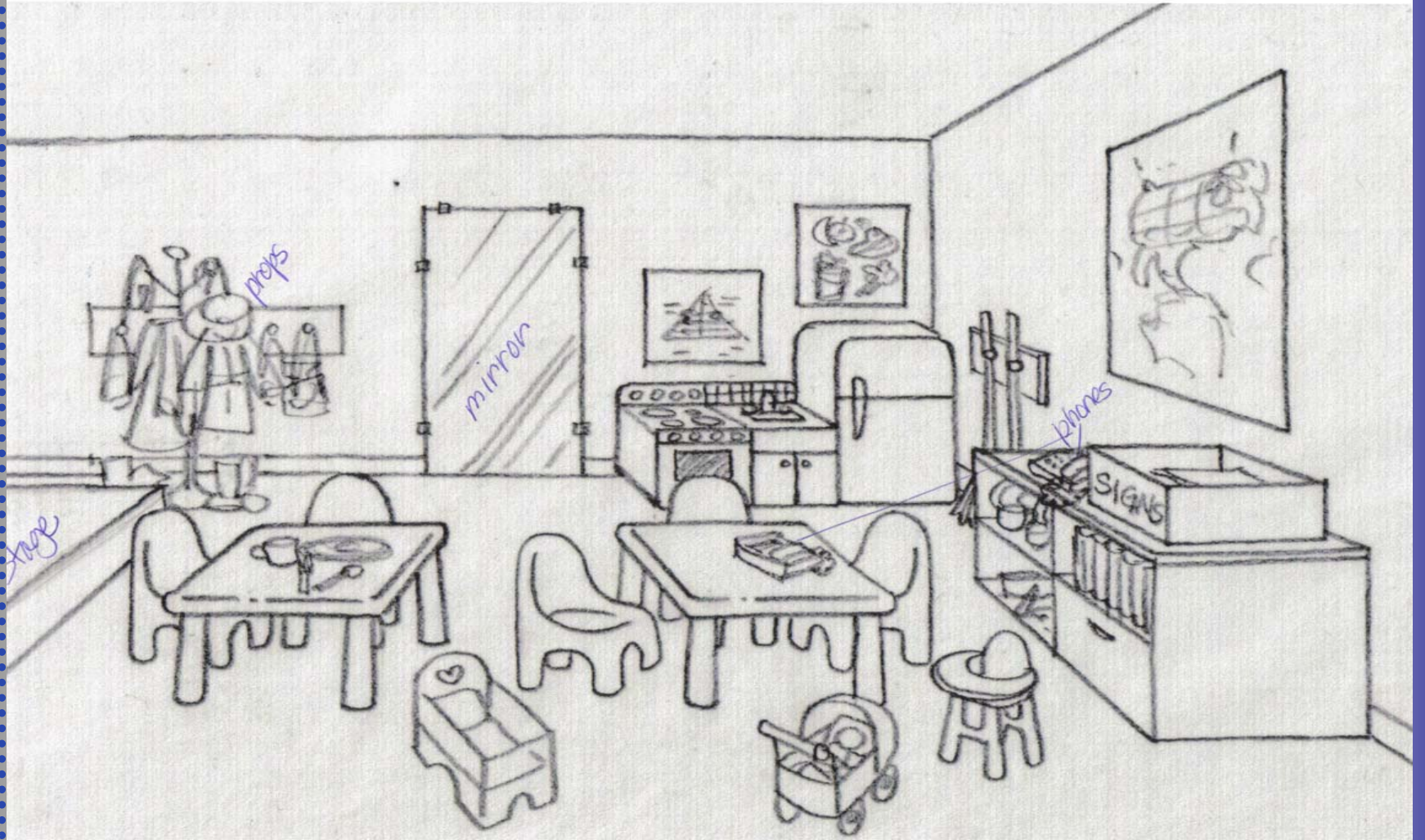
fish

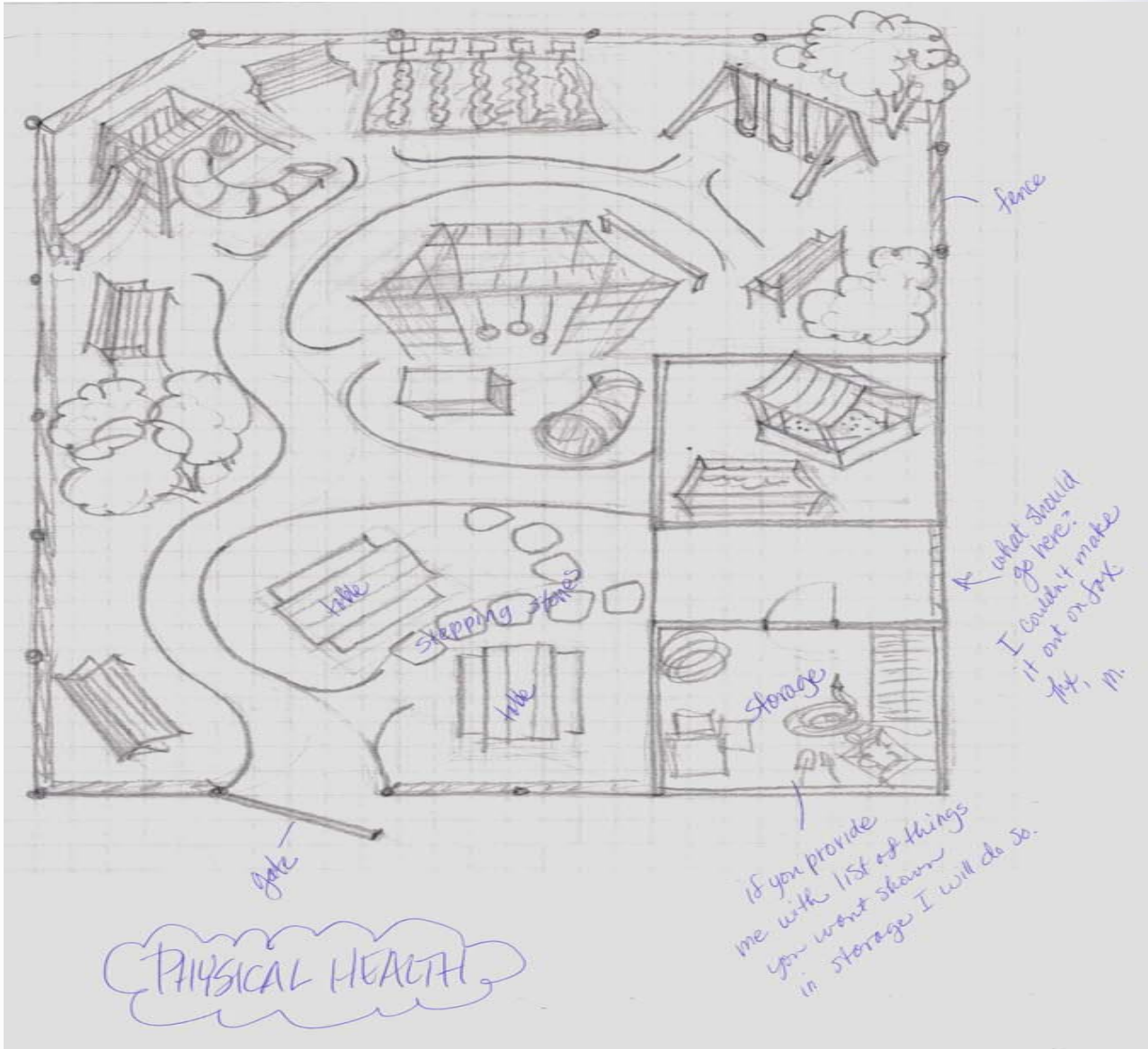
hamster





# Social Studies





PHYSICAL HEALTH

if you provide me with list of things you want shown in storage I will do so.

what should go here? I couldn't make it out on fox pt, m.



knowledge seekers