Amy Baker

Tuesday Jun 11 at 11:43

Introduction:

For my final project, I would like to create a website that can serve as a resource for parents and students in my kindergarten classroom. Each year, I notice that my parents are given multiple websites, links, and apps to navigate in order to stay connected to their child's classroom and school. I would like to combine all of these into one classroom website that parents can visit to access anything they made need throughout the course of the school year. I have utilized a couple of online parent communication sites with success, but have not found one that has all of the features that I would like it to have for my classroom. If I create my own page, I would be able to design it to better fit my needs. I decided to search for some sample kindergarten websites and found these two that I could review:

1. https://www.amazingclassroom.com/templates/animal_fun/default.asp?cag=PWAKE915 (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

2. https://sites.google.com/olgc.org/olgckindergarten/home?authuser=0 (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Similarities:

Both of these sites are designed for a kindergarten classroom. They both open to a homepage and have clear tabs that organize the content. It is clear that the sites are intended to keep parents informed about the things happening in their child's classroom as well as to provide resources that they can use with their children at home.

Differences:

The biggest difference you notice when opening the websites is the design. Site 1 is very colorful, thematic, and is what you would probably expect from a kindergarten page. Site 2 is a lot more plain and simple. Site 1 has quite a few more resources for families to use.

Site 1 Strengths:

This site is very eye-catching. It is colorful and well organized. The tabs are on the left and remain there no matter where you navigate. I clicked on each tab, and each one took me where I expected it to. Within many of the tabs there were also additional clickable links, which were all in working order. Each of the links opened in a new tab and nothing was more than two levels deep. There was a great deal of information for parents, as well as pages and logins for students.

Site 1 Weaknesses:

Although the site is very colorful, for some visitors it could be visually overwhelming. I think it could use a little more of a balance of design and content so that the "cutesiness" of the design doesn't take away from the important content. Some of the additional links weren't labeled well – they simply said "link 1" or "link 2" instead of saying where they would be redirected to. If a visitor wants to find a specific link, it would be nice for the links to be labeled so they could get there as quickly as possible.

Site 2 Strengths:

Page names are listed at the top of the homepage. Navigation to all pages is simple and can be done from any other page. When you click on a page the title of that page is large at the top. The design is clean and simple and very easy to read. It is not cluttered.

Site 2 Weaknesses:

There is not enough room for all of the page titles to show at the top, so there is a "more" option. Not all visitors will realize this and may not be able to find what they need. Some of the pages do not have any information on them, and don't indicate if they are being worked on, they are just blank. I do not see a place to contact the owner of the page for this site.

Use Cases:

Parents will be the largest users of my website. They will come to the site for weekly updates, reminders, schedules, lunch menus, upcoming events, photos and videos of classroom activities, and to contact me when needed. Any sites used at our school will be linked on my site so they know they can access anything that will be needed as the year progresses.

Students in my classroom can also use my website to access learning websites, videos, games, and activities that I have approved for them to use at home. They will be able to get to their online learning portfolio, research information, and read online books.

Kayla Heavin

Wednesday Jun 12 at 7:41pm

Amy,

I think you definitely made note of some very important elements that you can then apply to your own website (having contact information, not having just a "more" tab, etc.). And I also think your idea to merge all of this information into one website will be very helpful. As educators we try to be as communicative as possible, but with so many different places for parents to obtain information, it can be overwhelming for them. Plus, at the Kindergarten level, parents are so much more involved.

I tend to agree with you with the first site. There is a lot going on there with graphics, especially at first glance! I didn't know where to look first. While the background is super cute and works well with the theme of the site, I think it would have been a bit less distracting had she used just a solid color. And I see what you're saying about the second website not having all the pages complete. I'm not sure how closely you looked under the "weekly homework" tab, but that was definitely overwhelming as well. There are definitely a lot of great resources there, but it required a lot of scrolling.

I like your idea for some of the content you plan to put into your own site (websites, videos, games, etc.). I think that would provide them an excellent extension to the learning they do in class. Good luck!!

[Abby Turnbull](#)

Thursday Jun 13 at 4:29pm

Amy,

I see what you mean but the second site being a bit more plain. I am creating a classroom website as well. I think a mix of the two would be just right for what I would want my own site to look like. When looking at your site two weaknesses, I agree that the more option might be overlooked. I think while it is easy to read, it feels like the actual pages could be grouped in a better way.

These were helpful when considering how I would like my own site to look!

Abby