

## **Practice and Research on Exploiting Educational Resources of Chinese Traditional Ceramic Art to Promote Children's Development**

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**Abstract:** China is endowed with a long, profound and extensive history, the education contents and themes of activities related to ceramic art should be conducted to cultivate children according to regional resources. The rich theme activities can be generated according to children's interests, so that children can feel the beauty of ceramic art and the beauty can be demonstrated through ceramic production.

Tangshan is renowned as the capital of ceramics in the North with a history of more than 600 years. Children are exposed to many kinds of ceramics in their daily life and Tangshan is endowed with rich local cultural resources. The development history of ceramics is part and parcel of the development history of the Chinese nation. The pursuit and shaping of beauty of the Chinese people are reflected in many aspects through the making of ceramics, which has formed the very typical technical and artistic characteristics of each era. Over the past decades of years, our kindergarten has incorporated ceramic art into the theme activities. A series of activities such as understanding ceramics, learning ceramic patterns and understanding the making process of ceramics conducted by us can stimulate children's interest in ceramic art and children can witness the charm of ceramic art by making ceramics with our own hands.

### **1. Excavating the Local Traditional Culture of Ceramics to Generate the Characteristic Theme Curriculum of Kindergarten**

First, young children are required to look for surrounding ceramic products such as ceramics at home and in kindergarten. As a result, some children take photos and share with us and some display the ceramics collected by their seniors, which can prove to us the development process and the signs etched in the era. Besides, some children take the ceramics to kindergarten and sometimes the ceramics are higher than the children. Children can feel the unique shape and texture and even listen to the pleasant sound by touching, appreciating and gentle percussion of the ceramics. [1] According to the ceramics that children often contact with, it can be preliminarily classified as: artistic ceramics, daily ceramics, sanitary ceramics, architectural ceramics.

Since the Tangshan China Ceramics Exposition was held in 1998, the grand expo of ceramic works was held in every September, in which international and domestic famous ceramic brands and famous products were exhibited, as a result, for every Tangshan people, the expo is a grand gathering. Every year at the beginning of the school, we will take advantage of the opportunity of the Ceramic Fair to take children accompanied by parents take part in the ceramic expo to feel the charm of ceramic art. Children can have a visit of the expo with questions such as what kind of ceramics did you see? What is your favorite ceramic pattern? What is your favorite ceramic product? Children are asked to perceive ceramics with an observing eye.

When entering into the ceramic exhibition hall, children were allured by the art booth and ceramics with different shapes, unique patterns and diversified types of ceramic products, as a result, the colorful artistic works displayed opened the horizon of children in creation. Children visited the expo with questions, and learn the specialized knowledge in production of ceramics from ceramic artists. Besides, children recorded the ceramics with the most appeal to them on their notebooks. After returned back to the kindergarten, they shared what they see with each other and make interpretations in form of photos. The visual impact can be transformed into languages by sharing

the artistic ceramics and newspaper clipping. Therefore, the ceramic culture can be presented with variety of sensory sentiments [2].

## **2. Ceramic Artists Went into Classes to Build a Platform for Children in Creation**

Through the cartoon book "A Rabbit's Little Ceramic Bowl", children learned about the 72 processes of making ceramics. By visiting the ceramic production laboratory and bone china exhibition hall, children learned more about ceramic production knowledge. Casting is a traditional method of ceramic production, the superb casting molding technology of artists left a profound impression on the children with exclamation that: "That's amazing!" and "the shape can even be changed by reaching hands into a ceramic bottle!"...There are many ceramic artists among the parents, and they have been introduced into our teaching, which has enriched children's skills of casting and shaping. The children find it amazing to experience the different colors before glazing and post-glaze. Under the guidance of experts, the children learned how to draw and glaze the mud billet, experienced the whole process of wet billet - air billet - glazing, and learned professional knowledge such as pay attention to the thickness of glaze.[3] When children learned that they would fire their own glazed works into ceramics, they were highly motivated and experienced the joy of success.

## **3. Creating a Class Environment to Highlight Ceramic Culture and Effectively Interact with Children**

In order to enable children to feel the beauty of ceramic art in our daily life, teachers take the typical model, pattern design of ceramics as theme background. Besides, the collected information by children was classified, which were displayed on the theme wall. The books on ceramics were provided for children for their reference at any time. The theme showed the whole process of getting in touch of ceramics, approaching ceramics and presenting ceramics to build a interactive platform for children to recall their learning process.

When creating class environment, children actively involved in the activities, and they designed and arranged the activity with teachers. Besides, the ceramic works they painted were made into hanging ornaments and the ceramic vases they made were used to plant plantlet. In the whole process, children had demonstrated their enthusiasm in ceramic culture and they can boldly present their love for ceramic culture, which was of great importance for kindergarten with ceramic culture introduced.

## **4. Understanding the Meaning of Classical Patterns of Typical Chinese Traditional Ceramics, and Learning the Classical Patterns of Painting**

In addition to ceramic materials and techniques, another important component of Chinese ceramic art is the development of ceramic patterns. After thousands of years of refining, traditional ceramic patterns are concise and profound historical symbols and symbols of national traditions. It is effective to pass on ceramic culture by letting children understand the significance of Chinese classical patterns and learn classical patterns in painting. Traditional ceramic patterns in painting include such auspicious patterns as fish pattern, phoenix pattern and auspicious cloud pattern, as well as dragon pattern this is one of the most representative cultural symbols of the Chinese nation.[7] For the learning of patterns, teachers choose appropriate ways and contents according to the characteristics of patterns, children's learning ability and age characteristics. For example, in the study of magnolia patterns, the teacher will first choose plants planted in the kindergarten, which are close to children's life, so that children can directly get experience. Lead children to observe magnolia under the tree, collect the petals of the fallen magnolia flower, and perceive the implication of magnolia pattern in combination with the works described in ancient poems and texts. After careful observation of the structure of magnolia, on the basis of learning composition, the study of the pattern of magnolia. Dragon pattern learning: First, let children observe dragon pattern

and mobilize their previous experience. "Where have you seen dragon pattern?" The child replied: "There are many dragons in the Forbidden City", "ancient people's clothes have dragon patterns" and so on.[8] Children are not unfamiliar with dragons, so they can understand the significance of dragons to China and play classic videos of dragon dances to deepen their understanding of dragons. The body structure of the dragon is particularly complex. Children first understand the names of various parts of the dragon body, providing different levels of methods for children to learn to draw dragons: tracing, coloring and drawing details. Children choose different ways of drawing dragons according to their ability level, so as to get familiar with dragons and learn dragon patterns. [4]

Through understanding and painting traditional ceramic patterns, children understand the meaning of many patterns and feel the cultural characteristics and concepts of different times.

## **5. Creating Ceramic Characteristic Area to Feel the Pleasure in the Production Process**

According to children's needs in production, characteristic ceramic areas were constructed in the process of conducting theme activities. Area one: "ceramic supermarket for babies", the children bring back of ceramics to kindergarten, and interpreted the knowledge on ceramics to "customers" as "sellers" and the "customers" conveyed their demands to "sellers". By doing so, the ceramic knowledge was gradually enriched, which had become the driver for children development and they can be emerged in interactive learning atmosphere. There is also a specialized area to show children's works, the ceramic works made by children were played in the sales area so that children can promote their comprehensive development in the ceramic supermarket. [5] For example, to development in way of payment. The activities in the field of science can be extended with the help of money games in supermarkets, and children are very fond of counting games. There are many ways for payment in the game: clapping based payment, toy substitution based payment, and number card based payment, code scanning based payment. Emergency in the ceramic supermarket: the broken ceramic products also provide opportunities for children to carry out scientific inquiry activities. What is inside the broken ceramic pieces? How do you fix it? Children gain new experience by trying to verify their own guesses. Ceramic supermarket also carries on the selection of the best store manager.[6] All these activities provide an effective environment for children's development in language, society, science and other fields.

Area 2: Three-dimensional production in "Xiaotao Bar". Children here can freely choose the creation area according to their own ability, handmade products cover: wire rod products, square products and hollow out products, etc., and also the ceramics can be cast. Besides, auxiliary materials can be chosen for creation.

Area 3: Painting ceramics. The children collected.

## **6. To Carry on Ceramic Culture Through the Exhibition Activities**

In each large Children's Day, the ceramic display show was the most gorgeous part. Parents and kids designed clothing jointly for displaying and children print the decorative signs on the clothing they like. Parents designed the ceramics based clothing, and some clothes are elegant, cute and noble. Every clothing was presented with unique characteristics, and thus showing unique charms [9]. From ceramic modelling to pattern design, the audiences get the ceramic culture, receive revelation of beauty.

In the half open activities, all children of the kindergarten freely choose activity content, and they can experience every link in ceramic production such as, pug, kneading, wire rod, throwing, glaze, decorating ceramic designs so that children can truly experience ceramic culture in the operating activities, [10] more children like to play with clay, making art ceramics, which was a demonstration of beauty of ceramic culture.

The ceramic culture inherited by China is great. Children are provided with a platform to feel the beauty of traditional ceramic culture and the to understand beauty as well to display beauty by relying on traditional Chinese ceramic culture by appreciation, production and ornament activities. Therefore, children can experience the pleasure brought by the successful activities of the

traditional Chinese ceramic culture.

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