

# A Story of Early Childhood Design

Menchaca Elementary School

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# Learning Objectives

1. Understand challenges early learners face as they enter public education.
2. See how nature and the environmental setting impact student experience in a new facility.
3. Understand the relevance of 21st century learning skills at an early childhood education level.
4. Gain insight into the resources Educators use and need to support early learners.



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"Children want the same things we want.  
To laugh, to be challenged, to be  
entertained, and delighted."



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What was your role in the design process for the new Elementary School?







What do you think are some of the greatest challenges for young learners who are entering public education?

How do you navigate these challenges at Menchaca Elementary?





What is the desired role of the parent/caretaker in pre-K & how does that impact the teaching and learning experience?

How do you see that evolve in later years?





What is the role nature plays for students in pre-K in Austin ISD and specifically for Menchaca Elementary School?





What spatial features have a positive impact on your young students & why?

What characteristics of space have a negative impact on early learners, can you give any examples?

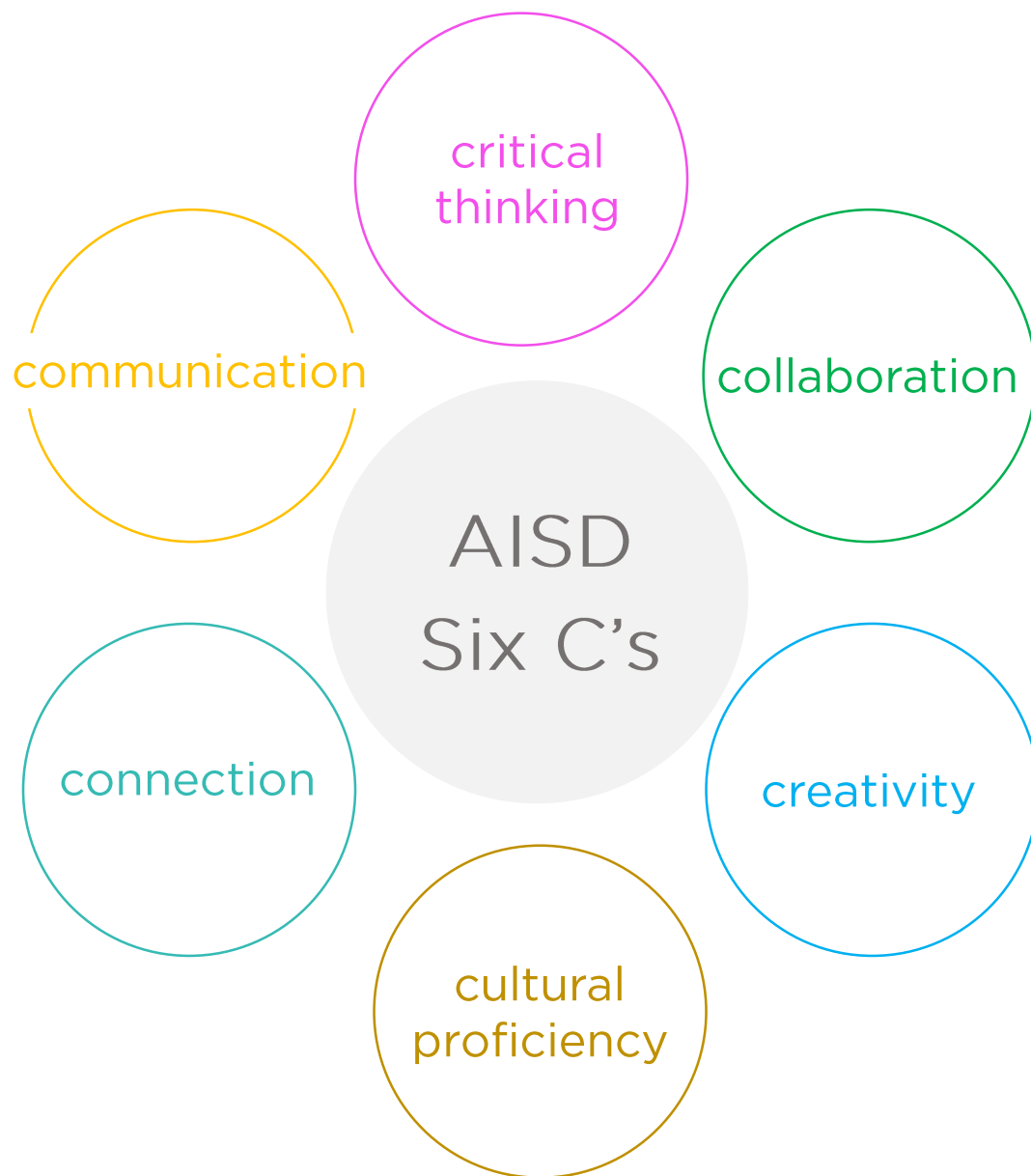




I know you've only been in your new space for a little over a month, but what has surprised you in how you're using the environment, or maybe more importantly- how the students are using the space?



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What examples could you describe that demonstrate the application of the 6c's, how are you using space to support the development of each of these skills?





What are unique challenges for students with special needs, how does space support or hinder their experience?





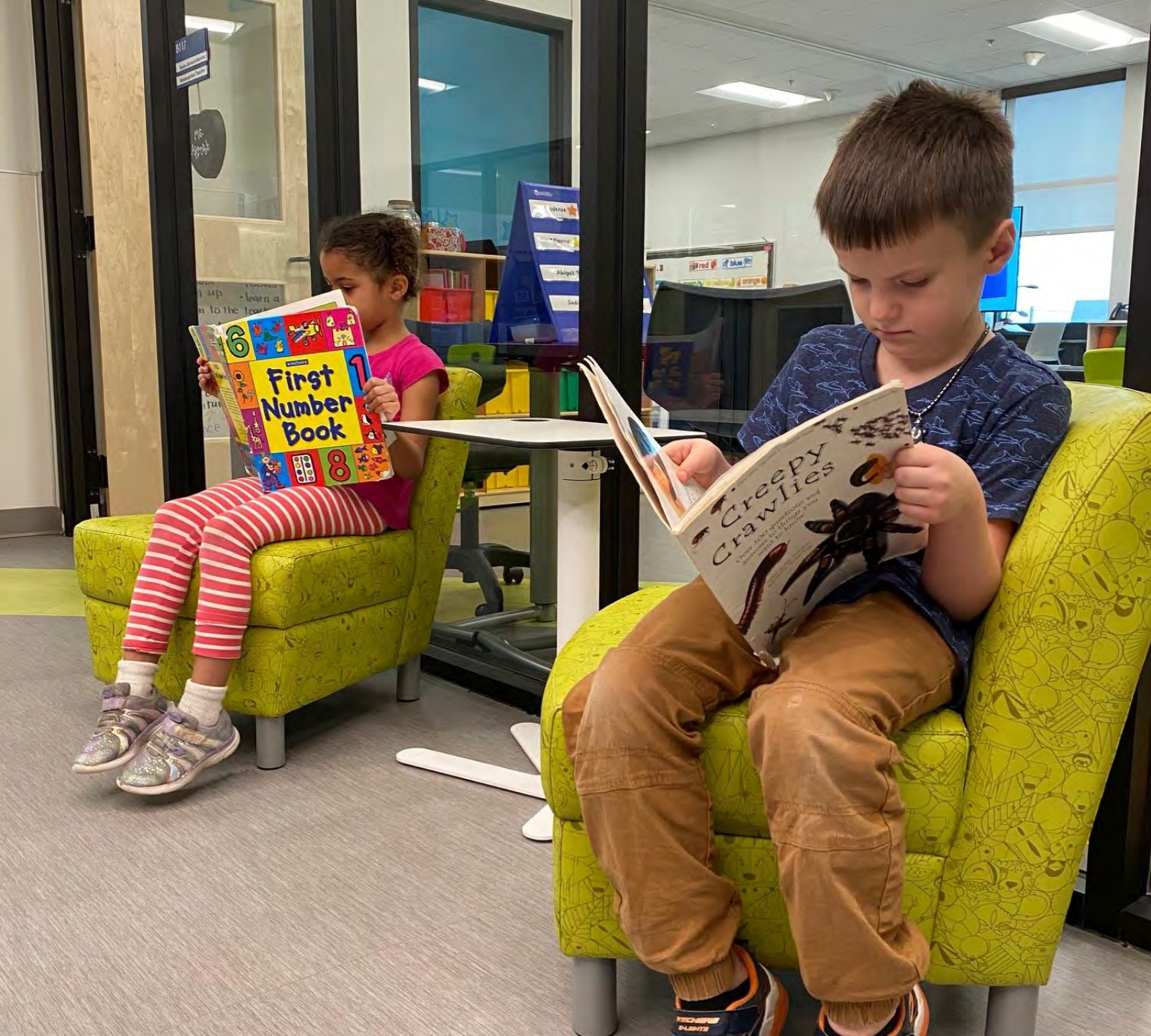
How do you think the environment, any environment, supports transition into Kindergarten or 1st Grade?





From your perspectives, is there visible evidence that space impacts experience & helps students learn how to learn, and how so?





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How do young students learn to use the space or understand the boundaries of use? What are the overt or subtle signals for agency and choice?





How do teachers learn to best utilize the space?

What resources should be considered for educators when designing space for early learners?





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As educators, what research do you reference to learn more about young minds and growing knowledge in early childhood education?

Is the use of space a topic within the Professional Learning Community?





Thank you

Open Discussion

Q&A