VS America Experience Days

Presented by:
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EDUCATING OUR STUDENTS FOR THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY AND TOMORROW
This conference was about providing adaptable and ergonomic educational furniture solutions to create agile learning environments that address students’ physical needs.
ATTENDEES AND SCHEDULE

• Designers, distributors, educators, facility planners, manufacturer representatives

• 3 Speakers

• Visit to an elementary school

• Visit to a warehouse to actual move and play with the furniture
SPEAKERS

David Stubbs – Founder of Cultural-Shift Educational Consultants. He is recognized as one of the most important industry leaders in establishing physical solutions for the next generation educational environments.

Dr. Dieter Breithecker – Health and Kinetics Scientist and the President of Federal Institute on the Development of Posture and Movement in Germany.
Aaron Jetzer – Principal, Eastwood Elementary School in Irvine, California. Aaron is a visionary, forward-thinking educator who brings stakeholders together to create a shared vision that promotes a positive school culture.
WHAT WE LEARNED

• Students need 4 C’s in a learning environment:
  1. Creativity
  2. Communication
  3. Critical Thinking
  4. Collaboration

• There are two more C’s that are also a must for a successful learning environment:
  • CHOICE and COMFORT

• Continuous and repeated professional development is needed around how to use the furniture to foster a successful learning environment
WHAT WE LEARNED

• Students need to move in order to emit positive emotion and this is done through motion

• Posture changes bring about motion which releases a bio-chemical reaction to positive emotion

• Sitting still slows brain activity, which leads to foggy thinking and distraction

• Learning is messy
WHAT WE LEARNED

Did you know?

STUDENTS AGED 6-10 CAN'T SIT STILL MORE THAN 5 MINUTES
STUDENTS AGED 11-15 CAN'T SIT STILL MORE THAN 15 MINUTES
STUDENTS AGED 16-20 CAN'T SIT STILL MORE THAN 25 MINUTES
WHAT WE LEARNED

• Busy body, busy mind

• We need to satisfy the requirements of all learning styles while also allowing choice.

• 50% of your learning day or working day should be sitting in a chair and the other 50% standing

• Chairs should allow for leaning back, tilting forward, and moving around for spontaneous, intuitive body motion.
NEXT STEPS

• 4 elementary furniture pilot classrooms being installed over the holiday break

• Focus PD for pilot teachers on utilizing classroom furniture to support the learning environment also includes book “P.B. Disrupts School”

• Make pilot classrooms available to staff and community
Video Wrap-Up and Questions

“Push boundaries to reinvent what is possible!”

“What if it does work?”