

Mary Ottis

Tuesday Jun 12 at 8:11pm

[Manage Discussion Entry](#)

I chose to evaluate two different kindergarten classroom websites because I want to make my own for my final project. I looked at www.thebesskinders.com ([Links to an external site.](#)) ([Links to an external site.](#)) (Mrs. Bess's Kindergarten) and <http://msmooteskindergarten.com/> ([Links to an external site.](#)) ([Links to an external site.](#)) (Ms. Moote's Kindergarten).

Compare/Contrast Design:

I found that both of these websites contained a lot of the same information. The layout of each website was a little different. Mrs. Bess's Kindergarten topics (Home, News, Homework, Calendar & Class Pictures) across the top. These were listed exactly the same on every page. I really liked this feature. It appeared to look like "tabs" on the main page. Mrs. Bess's also had links on the right side that were categorized for her classroom (Meet the teacher, schedule, class supply list, wish list, etc). In the middle of the website is where Mrs. Bess wrote her weekly update. In short it was 2 columns (news/links) with a row on the top (tabs).

Ms. Moote's website was one column. Underneath her main "welcome" there were links that would give more information about the classroom. This design was plain, but still visually appealing to the reader.

Strengths:

Mrs. Bess Kindergarten-

This website was easy to navigate. It also seemed to have a "template." Each time I clicked on something it would take me to that information, however, the page still appeared with the same options. For example, when I clicked on homework-I could read about homework, but the page was still the same design as the page with news. I like this because it gave the website a uniform appearance and it made it very easy to navigate.

Ms. Moote's Kindergarten-

This website was easy to navigate. Ms. Moote's was also "uniform" in design. Each time I clicked it would take me to the information, but the surrounding items remained the same.

Weaknesses:

Mrs. Bess Kindergarten-

It was difficult for me to find a weakness in this website. There was one link that didn't work "Dollar a Day." Each of the external links that were listed opened on the same page. I had to use the back button to take me back to the original website. I would prefer for the link to open in a new page.

Ms. Moote's Kindergarten-

This website had drop down boxes on the main page. I find that these are more difficult to click on the link I want. The color on this page seemed very bold (red). I did not find Ms. Moote's contact information anywhere on the website.

Scenarios:

1. A parent of a student in the class may come to both of these websites to find out what is being offered for school lunch and what time the specific class has lunch each day (lunch menu and daily schedule). As a kindergarten teacher, I realize that not many students can verbalize to their families what time lunch starts. If a parent wants to come to school to each lunch, he/she will need to know what time to be there.
2. A student in the class may visit these websites and navigate their way to games/learning sites that they have done in class (Raz-kids, Build Your Own Habitat)

Comments from peers:

Cynthia Crable

TuesdayJun 12 at 10:05pm

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Mary,

I really liked both websites that you compared and contrasted. They were both easy to navigate and they both had a lot of important information for parents and students. I like how visually they were easy to read and had age appropriate graphics. I agree with you that when you click the external links it would be better for them to open up on a separate tab instead of the current one.

Dana Greco

Wednesday

Great review Mary!

I felt the same with the information they provided and with their format; very similar and appropriate....definitely both are very user friendly, appealing to the eye and easy to navigate. I see how you had trouble finding weaknesses with Mrs. Bess Kindergarten, as did I. As for Ms. Moote's I definitely think the fact that she provided zero contact info is an issue. She may assume that students and parents she works with already have her contact information from a conference, flyer or open house, but it is very likely that

they could have misplaced/ forgotten about this and she should provide some form of contact somewhere.