

## School Culture at Daystar School – Chicago, IL

### A. Framework – ‘The Big Blocks’

1. We are Christian
  - a. Humans (adults and children) are to be dearly loved and known well
  - b. How I view and treat myself
  - c. How I view and treat others
2. We are constructivists
  - a. Learn by interacting with information and ideas/by doing
  - b. Together we are building/constructing our culture
3. We are calculating (deliberate)
  - a. People
  - b. Place
  - c. Practice

### B. Practice – ‘The Unit Blocks’

Door to Door Warmth  
Entrance/exit routines – names!  
Birthdays

1. Shared Work
  - a. Individual and class (journals/’museums’)
  - b. Cooperation vs. competition (applause board vs. honor roll board)
2. Shared Fun
  - a. Friday fellowship (team time)
  - b. MS electives
  - c. Special events (tea party, square dance, family beach/park days)
3. Shared Faith
  - a. Worship (K-8/MS/PK-K)
  - b. Memory verses
  - c. Sign language

### C. Strategies – Organization to Make it Work

1. Staff Training and Collaboration
  - a. Wednesdays
  - b. apprenticeships
  - c. hiring
2. Responsive Classroom (Northeast Foundation for Children)
  - a. standardized routines and language for good teaching
  - b. rules follow goals
  - c. First 6 Weeks of School
3. International Baccalaureate