Tip Sheet

Creating and Maintaining a Positive Environment for Children

Providing an environment that supports children’s health and safety is paramount below are different considerations when it comes to ensuring the Environment for children in your care is positive:

* The thinking behind your environment – how is it reflective of your philosophy (values and beliefs). Consider the key messages you want to convey through your environment.
* The lay out of your environment will affect how children play and learn. Small spaces allow for quiet, small group play and individual play. Large, open spaces encourage large muscle, loud play. (*Indicators: 1.1.a: Engage with children in small-group and one-on-one interactions.Indicator: 2.1.f: Thoughtfully modify the environment to support children’s success.Indicator: 2.2.c: Intentionally plan experiences and activities to develop small motor skills.)*
* How you choose and display resources will define how the children play with and use them. Choose resources that are flexible and allow open - ended experiences for children.  (*Indicators: 1.3.d: Provide displays and focal points to enhance the space.Indicator: 2.1.b: Ensure a variety of appropriate materials, equipment, and resources are available to meet the diverse needs and interests of children).*
* Use what you have. Think about your current resources, materials and equipment and try to use them in new and different ways. *(Indicator: 2.1.b: Ensure a variety of appropriate materials, equipment, and resources are available to meet the diverse needs and interests of children).*
* Be realistic. Your built environment (the size and shape of your rooms and outdoor play areas), location and climate will set some boundaries on what you can achieve. A good environment makes the best use of your available space and resources. *(Indicators: 1.4.a: Organize and equip the outdoor play space to provide a variety of developmental experiences and physical activities for children in a safe environment.Engage your families. Think about resources or materials that may be available from your families. Their active participation in providing natural or recycled materials will increase their involvement in your service.Indicator: 3.1.b: Build positive, respectful relationships with families).*
* Demonstrate cultural diversity and respect for other cultures in your environment by using and displaying resources and materials from local communities and other countries. Also remember that diversity goes beyond culture- think about what careers your families have, who lives in their homes, what their Christmas trees look like etc- how are we the same and how are we different? *(Indicators: 1.3.b: Design stimulating and interactive environments, ensuring the materials for play and learning contain a full range of diversity (e.g., ability, culture, ethnicity, family composition, gender).Indicator: 2.1.a: Incorporate experiences and cultural backgrounds of children in daily program planning).* Create-the-perfect-play-space-learning-environments-for-young-children.pdf