



BUILDING BLOCKS

A Newsletter for Teachers Working with Infant, Toddler
and Preschool
Educational Equity For All

March 2019

Checklist Of Environmental Considerations For Infants And Preschoolers

Health

- ✓ frequent cleaning, including daily washing and sanitizing of all toys and surfaces, because young children mouth items regularly
- ✓ separate area provided for diaper changing, with storage for supplies and water source within arm's reach
- ✓ daily cleansing and sanitizing of feeding and eating areas performed with a bleach/water solution (1:10 ratio)
- ✓ universal precautions observed by all adults
- ✓ food brought from children's homes stored separately from other foods

Safety

- ✓ lights included in fire-alarm systems
- ✓ no sharp or jagged corners on surfaces or equipment
- ✓ furniture, equipment, and materials kept in good repair toys and objects large enough to prevent swallowing
- ✓ furniture and equipment stable and secure enough to prevent falling over, especially if used to pull to a standing position
- ✓ cleaning supplies stored out of children's reach and separate from other materials
- ✓ pathways and traffic floor patterns clearly defined and free of obstacles
- ✓ electrical outlets covered and storage cabinets equipped with childproof fasteners as appropriate

Mobility

- ✓ practice of gross motor skills occurring within designated open spaces
- ✓ landmarks and cues to location and use of areas provided by furniture
- ✓ indoor and outdoor spaces provided for active play
- ✓ a variety of surfaces and heights provided to assist in crawling, cruising, and CLIMBING
- ✓ clearly defined areas provided for active and nonambulatory children

- ✓ Children's areas within the environment made accessible for all children

Environment

Room arrangement and contents warm and inviting, including soft furniture, a variety of textures and surfaces, and natural lighting

Furniture, wall coverings, and equipment visually interesting yet not overstimulating, complementing each other

Toys and learning areas inviting and interesting in a variety of sensory modalities

Furniture size appropriate for children under three years of age

Materials durable and easy for small hands to hold

Each area of the room accessible to students with low-incidence disabilities, including:

—All areas visually accessible for communication purposes for children with hearing impairments

—All areas accessible for children using wheelchairs and walkers

—All areas designed with appropriate lighting and contrasting tactile interest for children with visual impairments

—Consultation by orientation and mobility specialists with early childhood programs. With their expertise staff members can design environments that will help children develop safe, independent travel skills, such as trailing.

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/fp/documents/ecdulpimpl.pdf>



Preschool And Kindergarten Students Can Benefit From Naps

Early childhood educators should not sleep on the effect of naps on learning. By: Alison DeNisco | Issue: March, 2019

Naps have significant academic benefits for preschool and kindergarten students, despite the fact that schools continue to cut nap time in favor of more academic activities, according to recent research funded by the National Science Foundation. <https://goo.gl/VmTvGT>

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH

Develop early literacy and vocabulary skills with this collection of small board books! Every library includes eight mini-books and an audio CD full of read-along stories and sing-along melodies! This library comes in a sturdy, carryall box with a retractable handle and magnetic door. When in the box, this library fits easily onto any bookshelf.



My First Library Nursery Rhymes

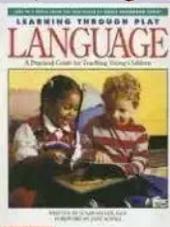
<https://dominie.com.au/products/EDT-4035>

Ideas for Parent Involvement Activities in Preschool Topics for Parent Education

- Special education terminology
- Parenting skills and concepts
- Transitions
- Child development
- Legal rights under the IDEA and the concept of least restrictive environment
- Preparing for independence
- Behavior management
- Positive discipline
- Sibling relationships
- Understanding disability
- Community resources
- Summer/vacation activities
- Traveling with children
- Computer technology
- Toys: buying, making, and adapting
- Taking care of yourself
- Characteristics of quality programs
- Storytelling
- Finding time with your spouse
- Cooking for or with children
- Finding a pediatrician or dentist
- Useful catalogs/resources
- Nutrition recommendations
- Brain development
- Early literacy

Source: Handbook on Family Involvement in Early Childhood
Special Education Programs. Sacramento: California
Department of Education, 1999, pp. 20–21.

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/fp/documents/ecdulpimpl.pdf>



- ✓ Language (Learning Through Play) (Paperback) by Scholastic (Author)
"A baby and language begins..."

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Teachers/>

<http://pbskids.org/arthur/>

<http://www.berenstainbears.com/>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THE NATURE PRESCHOOL CONFERENCE

Connect With Nature. Share With Educators. Learn Together. Join Irvine Nature Center — a leader in Nature-Based learning — for our 8th annual Nature Preschool Conference on April 12th and 13th. The Nature Preschool Conference is a gathering place for educators of children age birth to fourteen to share ideas, learn from experts, engage in discussion, and get hands-on experience. We encourage participants to think critically, ask questions, reflect on their practice, and share their experiences with all as we strengthen our growing community dedicated to powerful learning through play and interaction with the natural world.

<https://www.explorenature.org/school-programs/npc/>



The Importance of Consistency

Consistency is an important characteristic of the daily schedule. Young children feel more secure when they can predict the sequence of events and have some control over their day. They delight in reminding the teacher that “snack comes next” or telling a visitor that “now we go outside”. In addition, predictability provides children with a rudimentary sense of time, as they begin to learn what comes first in the day, second, next and last. A consistent schedule also helps build trust. Consistency does not, however, preclude flexibility or spontaneity. A special occurrence can be reason enough to alter the daily routine. Your schedule should be developmentally appropriate. Waiting times should be kept to a minimum and adequate time allotted for putting on coats and hats, eating meals and snacks, and cleaning up. Work periods should be long enough to give children time to select materials and activities, and everyone get a chance to participate.

The Creative Curriculum®

New Study Finds Strong School Climate Key to Effective Early Learning By Marva Hinton

A new study says programs with strong organizational structures hold the key to effective early-childhood education, and lists exceptional administrators and collaborative teachers as the two most important components of those structures. <https://goo.gl/vThZes>