

What Does Your Environment Say?

All environments send messages and evoke feelings.

Environments tell us how to act:

- You Can Talk --- Shh-Be Quiet
- You Can Touch --- Don't Touch—It might Break
- Do On Your Own --- It's Too Hard--You Need My Help

Does your environment give a positive and clear message about what to do?

- Open spaces say run around. Planned areas say come here and play.
- Plenty of choices tell children there is something for each of them.
- Kid-sized furniture says this is your place.

Environments influence how we feel:

- You can be comfortable here.
- You are important.
- You are competent.

How does your environment feel to the children who come on Sunday? Here's a suggestion for all the teachers. Get down on a child's level and view the environment from that level. Answer the following questions?

- What can the child see?

- What can the child hear?

- What can the child touch?

- What can the child smell?

Adapted from an anonymous handout.