

What Makes an Environment Inviting?

Children learn by playing, discover by exploring, experience by seeing, touching, tasting, smelling, hearing and understand by associating new ideas and experiences with old ones.

Here are some general suggestions for your environment:

- A Welcome Area (Nametags, markers, sign-in pages)
- A Gathering Space (A rug, a blanket, carpet squares, sacred table with a cloth and a candle to light, things from nature, a globe. etc.)
- Furniture for Kids (Kid-sized furniture is much more inviting to children than adult chairs and tables.)
- Soft places (Pillows or carpet squares to sit on for reading or the gathering or circle time)
- Display Areas (Bulletin boards or walls where theme ideas or children's art can be posted.)
- Special Nooks and Crannies (Can furniture be arranged to delineate interest areas rather than one big room?)
- Durable Surfaces (Washable, please, so kids can relax. Bleach wipes are quick and handy for wiping things down.)
- Safety Considerations (Check the room/s for hazards such as furniture that might tip over, uncovered outlets, fragile materials that could break, cupboards containing dangerous materials, etc.)
- Enough Toys, Games, Art Supplies (Especially with younger children, it is important to have duplicates of popular toys and enough supplies such as scissors, markers, glue sticks for all children.)