

Checklist For Programming Expectations

Room arrangements, materials and equipment, staff, and concepts to be learned will all influence the organization of a good learning environment for young children. It is important for staff to remember that our playground is an extension of our indoor play rooms and staff need to purposely plan activities reflecting children's interests during outdoor play time as well. By setting up a series of interest-based centers within these environments, staff can provide opportunities:

- ✓ for children to make choices.
- ✓ for children to explore, discover and learn through direct experience.
- ✓ for children to gain self-confidence and competence as a result of learning skills.
- ✓ for children to enlarge their vocabularies and develop communication skills through creative use of language, materials and equipment.
- ✓ for imaginative dramatic play through role playing.
- ✓ for children to learn to think and to solve problems by using a variety of materials.
- ✓ for children to develop physical and motor skills - coordination and manipulation as they use the equipment and materials provided.
- ✓ for children to develop socially as they learn to relate to others.
- ✓ for children to be able to share and be responsible to others as members of a group.
- ✓ for children to use and care for materials and equipment.
- ✓ to encourage children to complete tasks and plan group projects.
- ✓ for children to explore, discover and expand their learning of specific information relating to a subject.

Some important considerations in planning interest-based centers:

- * space (floor, table, display and storage)
- * light, ventilation and heat
- * exits, entrances, and traffic patterns
- * the number of children and their interests, abilities, and needs
- * availability of safe, multipurpose materials and equipment
- * budget amount
- * number of staff

Remember, providing a rich environment is not enough. Adults must be facilitators, participants, and supervisors interacting with children, other staff members and the environment.

Arrange centers in such manner as to allow easy supervision by staff from strategic spots without limiting the children's use of materials. There are times when a teacher may need to supervise several centers alone Always keep this in mind when planning.