

Early Essentials

ENVIRONMENTS PRACTICE MOMENT



Instructions: Watch the Practice Moment and record your notes here. Then, reflect on your environment, using the questions below as a guide.

Consider these questions to guide your reflection on how your environment benefits infants, young children, and families. If you are a home visitor, you might apply the questions to your socialization environments, or use them to help families think about their home environment.

QUESTION 1 The space in this family child care environment is flexible, providing room for infants and young children to play in large groups, small groups, and by themselves.

- How does your environment support group and alone time for young children?
- What else might you do to support the flexible use of spaces in your environment?

QUESTION 2 The space in this environment accommodates a variety of materials that children can engage with independently.

- How does your environment support independence and choice for young children?
- How else could you support independence in your space?

QUESTION 3 The family child care provider and assistant are key elements in this environment, which gives providers room to young children and support both their physical and social-emotional development.

- How do adults in your program create a nurturing space for young children and families?
- Can you think of other ways adults could support children and families in your spaces?

QUESTION 4 In addition to being a safe, planned space for children and families, this physical space also supports their social-emotional needs.

- What about your physical environment supports the social-emotional needs of young children and families?
- What other strategies could you use to support the social-emotional needs of children and families in your space?

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ENVIRONMENTS? Here are some resources you can use to dig a little deeper:

[Early Essentials Webisode 7: Environments](#)

[Caring Connections Podcast 4: Let's Talk About Environments](#)

[News You Can Use: Outdoor Spaces!](#)

[Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning Resources: Infant/Toddler Training Inventory of Practices Tool II](#)

[Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning Resources: Infant/Toddler Training Module 1](#)