

Indoor and Outdoor Learning Environment - Procedure

Purpose

This outlines the required elements for learning environments in infant, toddler and preschool classrooms and group socialization spaces.

Preschool

The Creative Curriculum

These required interest areas in a preschool classroom to provide maximum engagement and learning by all children enrolled.

- Blocks
- Dramatic Play
- Toys and Games
- Art
- Library
- Discovery
- Sand and Water
- Music and Movement
- Outdoors

The following two interest areas are recommended by *The Creative Curriculum* and are considered optional in PSESD Early Learning implementation of the curriculum:

- Cooking
- Computers

Information about the required content of each interest area can be found within *The Creative Curriculum* publications.

DECA Reflective Checklists

DECA Reflective Checklists may be used at the beginning of each program year to assess the environment and practices that support children's social and emotional health. The checklists are designed to help teachers reflect upon and intentionally apply practices that promote children's social and emotional health by nurturing the within-child protective factors: initiative, self-regulation, and attachment/relationships. The checklists consist of 38 items and cover teaching practices across five categories: daily routines, environment, caring connections, activities and experiences, and partnerships between teachers and families.

Infant/Toddler

The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Twos

A well-planned room/space for infants, toddlers, or twos is a welcoming place for children and families and a pleasant, efficient place in which to work. Conveniently located, organized and well-equipped areas make routines easier to manage and allow focus to remain on children interaction.

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The following areas are required by *The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Twos*:

- Greeting area
- Diapering and toileting areas
- Sleeping area (Center Based only)
- Nursing area
- Eating area
- Areas for experiences

Information about the required content of each area and each age group can be found within the *Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Twos* publications.

Early Head Start – Home Visits

Home Visitors support families in adapting the natural home environment to support the learning and development of the child. Learning materials are drawn from the home environment whenever possible to honor the diverse cultures, languages, values and personalities of the children and families.

The *Partners for a Healthy Baby* curriculum provides research-based content that addresses key topics for home visits, including guidance on how to develop rich home learning environments.