

Learning Objectives

- To examine sources of personal attitudes and feelings towards children
- To understand the importance of emotional development and social competence in relation to future learning
- To consider the impact of social and emotional development, biological traits and environment influences on behavior
- To plan early learning environments that prevent challenging behavior and promote social competence
- To practice the principles of positive guidance
- To consider the importance of intrinsic motivation
- To examine how adults foster the development of positive self-concepts via reflective, authentic communication
- To develop strategies for responding to conflict
- To strengthen the parent-provider relationship
- To identify risk factors that indicate the need for additional professional help

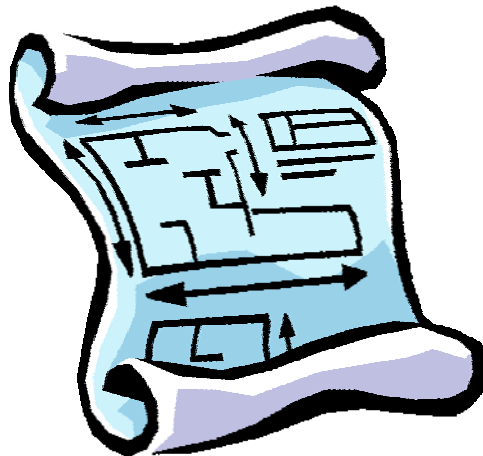
Planning the Physical Space

The arrangement of the family child care home affects children's ability to develop self-control and independence. Children need an environment where they can

- Move about safely
- Explore independently and do many things for themselves
- Engage in developmentally appropriate activities
- Make choices
- Play alone or with others
- Have access to the provider when needed

When problem behaviors occur, observe and ask the following questions:

- Is there adequate space for play?
- Are the play areas clearly defined?
- Is there low-shelving and no visual barriers?
- Have I designed an aesthetically pleasing environment?
- Do I provide developmentally appropriate materials?
- Have I planned for private and personal space?



Guiding Young Children's Behavior



- **Set positive limits.**
 - “Chairs are for sitting.”
- **Use simple language.** It is hard for children to process information during emotionally charged situations. We must be succinct and clear in our messages.
 - “Hitting hurts. Be gentle.”
- **Be consistent.** As children work to make sense of their world, they need predictable limits.
- **Monitor your tone and facial expression.** Speak matter-of-factly and with a calm, yet serious face.
- **Offer acceptable choices.**
 - “You can play with this truck now or wait for Savannah to be done. You choose.”
- **Follow through.**