



CHILD CARE COUNCIL
Serving Columbia, Greene and Ulster Counties

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JESSICA MARKLE

Room Arrangements



WHY A STRUCTURED DAY CARE IS IMPORTANT

2013/2014

What's inside:

- *Importance of Room Arrangements*
- *How to create learning centers and a safe environment*
- *How room arrangements influence behavior*
- *Why **PLAY** is important*

Why are **Room Arrangements** important?



- Encourages a learning environment.
- Encourages responsibility, making choices, participation, social skills and communication.
- “Well-planned learning stations present children with challenging projects and opportunities for exploration which encourage thinking skills and motor development” (Early Childhood News).
- Incorporate a variety of different learning styles so every child can benefit: Visual, Auditory, and Kinesthetic.

A. **Visual**– A learning style in which ideas, concepts, and other information are associated with images and techniques.

B. **Auditory**– A learning style in which a person learns through listening.

C. **Kinesthetic**– A learning style in which takes place by the student actually carrying out a physical activity, also known as tactile learning.



- Creating a room with spaces and learning centers will help programs meet three basic needs
 1. Protecting children’s health and safety
 2. Developing positive relationships
 3. Creating learning opportunities
- Well-defined environments help children feel invited and welcome to explore and learn
- “A child’s development is directly linked to their ability to interact with their environment” (TA Classroom Physical Environment, 2005).



Neuman, S., & Roskos, K. (2007). *Nurturing Knowledge*. New York, NY: Scholastic inc.



Taylor, K. (1999-2013). The Importance of Learning Centers in the Classroom. *EHow Education K-12*.



TA Classroom Physical Environment, (2005). Creating a Child Care Environment for Success. Retrieved from: http://www.bcfcca.ca/pdfs/participant_resources_11/creating_a_childcare_environment_for_success.pdf



Colbert, J. (unknown). Classroom Design and How It Influences Behavior. *Early Childhood News*.



Colbert, J. (2006). Influences Behavior. *Community Playthings*.



Stoecklin, V. (2007). Facilities. *Community Playthings*.

Mission Statement:

To support the community by expanding and promoting high quality Child Care that meets the needs of children & their families.
Visit our website www.familyofwoodstockinc.org

Conclusion

PROGRAM REGULATIONS

- The home must have adequate indoor space for the comfort of the children and to accommodate a variety of activities for the number of children in care.
- All exits must be accessible with nothing blocking them.
- Rooms which are being used by children must be well-lighted and well-ventilated.
- Toys (ones that are in the learning centers) need to be able to be accessed by children.
- Provide sufficient quantity and variety of materials and play equipment appropriate to the ages of the children and their developmental levels and interests (including children with developmental delays or disabilities) that promote children's cognitive (thinking), educational, social, cultural, physical, emotional, language, and recreational development.
- Establish a daily schedule of program activities which offer reasonable regularity in routines, including snack and meal periods, nap periods, indoor activities, and outdoor play time.

http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/childcare/daycare_regs.asp

As a parent or as a provider it is necessary to offer a place for creative play or quiet reflection or innovative learning, as well as relationship building with other children and adults.



How do you create learning centers?

SOME KEY LEARNING CENTERS TO HAVE IN YOUR PROGRAM:

ART	DISCOVERY
BLOCKS	DRAMATIC
PLAY	LIBRARY
MUSCLE/ FITNESS	TABLE GAMES
MUSIC / MOVEMENT	



Learning Centers can change and adapt based on your program needs

- Focus on a theme unit (Rotate materials with your theme)
- Make spaces cozy and well-defined
- Use low shelves or borders to define each space
- Make sure the room is visually and texturally pleasant
- Add posters, paintings, photographs of children, and children's artwork.

Be sure that most of the items hanging on the wall are at a child's eye level.

HERE ARE TWO GREAT ASPECTS TO ADD TO YOUR PROGRAM:

1. Touch a Wall: Add different textures to a wall or one section of a wall so children can learn about the various textures around them.
2. Sanctuary: A small space with room for only one or two children and should be visually isolated but able to be supervised.

Children need breaks from large groups.

This space will help children regain control and to calm down. Clearly define the rule of this space.

DO NOT USE THIS SPACE AS A TIME OUT SPACE!

The room needs to be well-organized, with open pathways that clearly lead to activities that offer enough to do. This will allow children to manage on their own. Children need freedom to move about safely. One of the keys to a successful program with learning centers is guidance. Providers need to explain and demonstrate to children how learning centers, as well as their material, are to be used.



How does **Room Arrangements** influence behavior?

ENVIRONMENT MATTERS!

- The arrangement of the environment plays a key role in guiding the behavior of young children. A poorly arranged physical setting actually sends messages which may trigger behavior such as aggressive play, running, or superficial interactions with toys and materials.
- Dead spaces encourage wandering and unruly behavior.



How do you influence GOOD Behavior?

- Get rid of clutter
- Simplify the layout of the room and materials
- Add more choices and make sure the activity choices are relevant
- Make a place for everything, use picture labels to show where things go
- Use shelves and other objects to define areas so children are not distracted by other activities



Why is **PLAY** important?

“Environments that encourage **PLAY** are environments that are preparing children for kindergarten, future elementary school academics, and a love of life long learning. This foundation then supports the house of higher learning. What

happens when you build with NO foundation?

What happens when there is no room for PLAY in our programs?

Seven things WE MUST do with children each day

CREATE
MOVE
SING
DISCUSS
OBSERVE
READ
PLAY

Playing is not a separate seventh thing— but rather, playing is the cement that is holding our foundation together. It's been said that we stop playing when we get old, but really we get old because we stop playing.”



Lisa Murphy The Ooey Gooley Lady

