Module Home

**Outline­**

**Early Childhood Environments**:

Designing Effective Classrooms

* Module Description: This module, a DEC-recommended resource, offers information on how to set up effective inclusive early childhood classroom environments for young children. It also provides details about the interrelated physical, social, and temporal components of those environments, as well as adaptations to help teachers meet the needs of children with disabilities (est. completion time: 1 hour).

Challenge

* Video: Ms. Smith and Mrs. Hahndorf are teachers in an inclusive…

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Initial Thoughts

* What elements make up a well-designed early childhood environment?
* What can teachers do to make the classroom environment more conducive to children’s learning and development?

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Perspectives & Resources

* Module Objectives
* Define and describe the difference between the physical, social, and temporal environments of an early learning program
* Describe why a well-designed physical, social, and temporal environment benefits all young children
* Understand unique considerations in arranging an infant/toddler environment
* Understand the importance of adapting environments to meet the unique needs of young children with disabilities
* Describe how families and teachers can work together to create environments that nurture and support the development of all children

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* Page 1: Early Childhood Environments
* Safe, responsive, and nurturing environments are an important…
* Well-designed classroom environments… [bullet points]
* Research Shows
* Components of Early Childhood Environments/Definition [table]
* Audio: Listen as Ilene Schwartz discusses how the three components…
* Including Children with Disabilities

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* Page 2: Physical Environment
* The term *physical environment* refers to the overall design…
* Arrangement of Furnishings and Floor Coverings [drop-down menu]
* Selection and Placement of Materials [drop-down menu]
* Design and Display of Visual Materials [drop-down menu]
* Lighting and Sound [drop-down menu]
* For Your Information
* Including Families
	+ You can do this by… [bullet points]
* Including Children with Disabilities
	+ They can do this by… [bullet points]
		- Link: assistive technology [definition]
		- Link: communication board [definition]
		- Link: flip book [definition]
	+ Did You Know?
	+ Audio: Listen as Abby Green talks about how she arranges…
	+ Audio: Listen as Ilene Schwartz talks about the concept of…
* Additional Considerations for Infants and Young Toddlers
	+ These include… [bullet points]
	+ Audio: Listen as Rob Corso explains why it is so important for…
	+ Research Shows
	+ Examples of a High-Quality and a Less Supportive… [table]
	+ Activity
		- Click for feedback [drop-down menu]

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* Page 3: Social Environment
* The term *social environment* refers to the way that a classroom…
* Group Size and Composition [drop-down menu]
* Teacher-Versus Child-Initiated Activities [drop-down menu]
* Materials and Activities That Promote Interaction [drop-down menu]
* Including Families
	+ More specifically, when they partner with families… [bullet points]
* Including Children with Disabilities
	+ For these children, teachers might need to… [bullet points]
	+ Audio: Abby Green talks about how to support positive…
	+ Audio: Ilene Schwartz discusses some of the ways that teachers…
	+ Research Shows
	+ For Your Information
		- Link: scripted stories [definition]
		- Link: Early Childhood Behavior Management: Developing and Teaching Rules [IRIS Module]
* Additional Considerations for Infants and Young Toddlers
	+ Audio: Listen as Rob Corso discusses one of the biggest…

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* Page 4: Temporal Environment
* The term *temporal environment* refers to the timing, sequence…
* Vary Activity Levels [drop-down menu]
* Plan Effective Transitions [drop-down menu]
* Teach Routines and Schedules [drop-down menu]
* Audio: Abby Green shares how she has made transitions…
* Including Families
	+ Asking families about their routines and schedules… [bullet points]
* Including Children with Disabilities
	+ For these children, teachers can… [bullet points]
	+ Audio: Ilene Schwartz illustrates why visual supports help…
	+ Research Shows
* Additional Considerations for Infants and Young Toddlers
	+ For Your Information

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* Page 5: Putting It All Together
* After attending a training on effective early childhood environments…
* Ms. Smith’s Classroom [table]
* Mrs. Hahndorf’s Classroom [table]
* Audio: Listen as Rob Corso discusses how setting up an effective early…

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* Page 6: References & Additional Resources
* Suggested module citation
* References
* Additional Resources
* Page 7: Credits
* Content Experts
* Module Developers
* Content Expert Reviewers
* Module Production Team
* Media

Wrap Up

* Summary of the module
* Components of Early Childhood Environments/Definition [table]
* Revisit your Initial Thoughts responses

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Assessment

* Take some time now to answer the following questions.

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You Have Completed This Module

* Give Us Your Feedback
	+ Link: Module Feedback Form
* Professional Development Hours
	+ Link: IRIS PD Options
* Related Resources [link]