



Idea Bank:

Creating Learning Centers

Teachers need to “create an intellectually engaging, responsive environment to promote each child’s learning and development” (NAEYC 1997, 11).

First Steps	Extensions
<p>Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - create inviting spaces for all children to learn and play 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All centers have clear physical boundaries 2. All centers have clear entrances and exits that are accessible to all children 3. All centers have adequate space to support the number of children at play
<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have a variety of age appropriate manipulatives 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offer various types of materials to encourage hands-on learning (consider textures, colors, natural elements, etc.) 2. Make sure all materials are age appropriate and relevant to the learning theme 3. Materials should create connections to real-world activities
<p>Choice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - give children the chance to choose 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children can choose where they will play 2. Children can choose who they will play with 3. Children can choose how they use the materials in each learning center
<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - include activities that help children make connections 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offer activities that invite children to work together 2. Include visual images and physical objects that will allow children to connect to real-life events, home, community, culture, etc. 3. Routinely change activities in learning centers to keep children interested
<p>Accommodations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - make accommodations to include all types of learners 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make changes to the environment to promote participation, engagement, and learning 2. Make changes to the materials so all children can participate as independently as possible 3. Use child preferences to help a child engage in a particular center