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SAFETY, HEALTH AND COMFORT OF SPACE

SAFETY AND HEALTH

- Do any furnishings need repaired?
Do walls need repainting?
- Are materials and furnishings cleaned and sanitized? Are they made of material that are easy to disinfect?
- Is the arrangement of play area free of obstacles and allow for visual supervision?

COMFORT

- Does space have access to natural light?
- Does the space have access to ventilation?
- Does space have temperature control?
- Do you find yourself raising your voice to be heard by children?

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ARRANGEMENT OF INDOOR SPACE FOR PLAY

Characteristics of a play space

- Ample space for children to play
- Materials accessible
- Loud materials together (musical instruments, blocks, dramatic play)
- Quiet materials together (cozy area, books)
- Messy materials together (sand/water table, art area)
- Space for privacy
- Inclusive for all children
- Promotes independence
- Allows for active supervision



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REMOVE CLUTTER



How many pieces of infant/toddler equipment are in your childcare space?

Remember that babies need a lot of experience using their muscles while lying on a blanket or mat. Consider limiting the number of exersaucers, infant swings, and bouncers in the childcare.

GET ORGANIZED




Are children not certain where to put things during clean up time?

Use similar baskets or bins to give a space a visual appeal. Add labels with a photo of what is stored in each bin to make it easier for children to know where things belong.


Families often love family child care because it gives their child a home - like experience.

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LET'S TALK SPACE AND MATERIALS



WHAT IS AMPLE SPACE?



WHAT MATERIALS ARE SUGGESTED?



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

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COZY AREAS

- Protected from active play
- Provides softness and a quiet place to relax
- Child can be visually supervised

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DON'T FORGET THE YOUNGEST CHILDREN!

Infants and young toddlers also benefit from a space that can be protected from older children. This encourages learning experiences with materials such as soft blocks, fabric/board books, and other developmentally appropriate toys.



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INCLUSIVE INDOOR SPACE


Creating an inclusive space? Below are a few ideas for consideration.

Physical Space:

- Ramps and handrails
- Doorways at least 32 inches wide
- Door handles easily operable with limited use of hands

Interactive Learning:

- Labeling areas with pictures and visual instructions
- Clearing floor space to allow easy access
- Modeling how to use certain materials
- Assisting a child to be positioned in an area near peers.



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DOES MY PROGRAM PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE: A CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE

Ask yourself these questions from a child's perspective...

Is there a step stool so I can turn on the sink to wash my hands on my own?

If I cannot yet crawl, can I reach infant toys close to me or play with a rattle you give me?

If I want to know what happens after naptime, can I look at the picture schedule that shows what to expect?

Can I make the decision to create a picture instead of participating in circle time, quietly gathering art materials on my own, and sitting down at a table without needing help?

Can I look through the assortment of developmentally appropriate books, pick one I like and find a cozy place nearby to explore it?

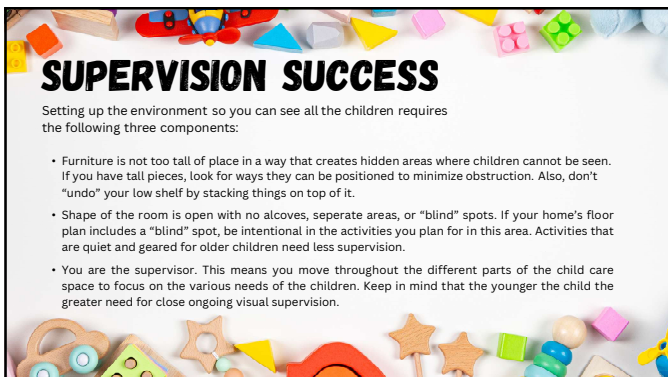
On no school days, can I choose between helping set up the table for lunch or reading a story to the babies while you get things ready?

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SUPERVISION SUCCESS

Setting up the environment so you can see all the children requires the following three components:

- Furniture is not too tall of place in a way that creates hidden areas where children cannot be seen. If you have tall pieces, look for ways they can be positioned to minimize obstruction. Also, don't "undo" your low shelf by stacking things on top of it.
- Shape of the room is open with no alcoves, separate areas, or "blind" spots. If your home's floor plan includes a "blind" spot, be intentional in the activities you plan for in this area. Activities that are quiet and geared for older children need less supervision.
- You are the supervisor. This means you move throughout the different parts of the child care space to focus on the various needs of the children. Keep in mind that the younger the child the greater need for close ongoing visual supervision.



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 <p>Is there a sanitary diapering area close to the play area?</p>	<p>An enclosed space for privacy not only prevents supervision of the children inside, it also acts as a barrier to what is happening behind it. Having an open concept helps the provider see what is happening inside.</p> 	 <p>A tall shelf can create a blind spot behind it which makes supervision difficult, but having right size furniture can help the provider scan the room easily.</p>
<p>Is there a place where children can easily get ready to go outside or prepare their things to go home?</p> 	 <p>Do infants nap in cribs that are within easy view for supervision?</p>	<p>Does the space used for preparing meals allow for supervision of children at play?</p> 

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SIGNS THAT THE SPACE MAY NOT MEET NEEDS OF CHILDREN

- 1 Children are wandering around looking for something to do.
- 2 Fighting over toys and materials.
- 3 Running.
- 4 Crawling under tables.
- 5 Not wanting or knowing how to clean up.
- 6 Always asking you for things they need or want.
- 7 Not able to find a space for privacy.

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REFLECTION

When creating your indoor space consider the following questions to determine if your space is well designed:

- Are there any repairs that need to be made?
- Is the space clean/sanitary, welcoming, homelike?
- Is there natural light and ventilation?
- Can the children see, find, and access play materials independently?
- Is the space plentiful enough for children of all ages and abilities to be engaged and enjoy materials?
- Does the space allow for children to move freely without feeling crowded?
- Can each child choose to play with an activity of interest so multiple types of play are happening at the same time?
- Is the space set up to allow for active supervision by the provider?



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