

MODULE TWO

CREATING A SETTING

LEARNING ACTIVITY

CS-4

APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTS FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Consider the following characteristics of appropriate settings for infants and toddlers. Read the examples of how a program might demonstrate this characteristic. Then provide an example of how your setting does this.

CHARACTERISTIC	EXAMPLE	ONE WAY YOUR SETTING DOES THIS
Safe	Mobiles hang out of babies' reach.	
Clean and healthy	A step-stool with a wide base is at the sink so children can safely wash their hands by themselves or with help if needed.	
Individualized	Cribs are in a quiet area so babies can sleep on their own schedules.	
Engaging	Toys are displayed where children can see and choose them.	
Comfortable	Chairs and tables are appropriately child-sized.	
Consistent	The mirror in the tummy time area is permanently attached to the wall.	
Interesting	Small, natural items are in secure containers for children to safely examine.	



Challenging	Puzzles range from 4-piece with knobs to 8- or 10-piece for older children.	
Flexible	Toddlers eat at an outdoor picnic table on pleasant days.	

CHARACTERISTIC	EXAMPLE	ONE WAY YOUR SETTING DOES THIS
Open-ended	Children use blocks in different ways, such as for props, dumping and filling, and stacking, based on their ages and skills.	
Well-organized	Diapering supplies are on shelves within a teacher's reach.	

CHARACTERISTIC	EXAMPLE	ONE WAY YOUR SETTING DOES THIS
Allow for varied group sizes	There are small, sturdy, child-sized cushions and larger cushions for two children.	
Support growing skills	New walkers can push a toy wagon or shopping cart.	
Reflect families, languages, and cultures	Families can bring in books, containers, baskets, or other culturally significant materials that are unique to their language and culture.	