

Environmental Design

Assessment Key/Rate Yourself:

Novice

1. Not yet aware
2. Developing an understanding
3. Beginning to apply

Intermediate

4. Frequently applies
5. Consistently applies

Master

6. Thorough knowledge, ability to modify, evaluate, and synthesize
7. Fosters growth, exercises leadership, and advocates

Criteria	Assessment							Comments
	Novice			Inter.		Master		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Arranges the physical space and materials to create a dynamic, safe, clean, secure, attractive and stimulating environment								
Organizes space into identifiable activity areas which encourage active involvement, initiative, exploration, responsibility, creativity and a growing sense of autonomy								
Plans for and invites dramatic play, block building, small manipulative/table toys, math, science, reading and writing, art, music, and sensory exploration (such as sand and water) and child choice of above activities through the arrangement and organization of space								
Uses the outdoor environment and natural settings as an integral part of a child's active and quiet learning								
Adapts the environment to accommodate children's special needs								
Selects and uses materials that are stimulating to each child and suitable to individual learning styles, varying developmental levels, special needs, and language and cultures of the children in the group								
Effectively schedules activities, routines and predictable transitions and utilizes both auditory and visual prompts								

Environmental Design (cont'd)

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Criteria	Assessment							Comments
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Invites and uses input from children in arranging the environment when developmentally appropriate								
Provides each child with space for personal belongings								
Arranges space to accommodate individual, small, and large group activities								
Understands the link between how space is arranged and organized and its effect on children's behavior (for example, clear pathways to reduce disruptions as children move between activities)								
Provides areas for active and quiet activities								
Provides learning materials and equipment that are readily accessible to children, promote positive interaction and are rotated to maintain children's interest								
Encourages children to learn to take care of and respect materials, equipment, living things in the program and the indoor and outdoor environment								
Displays children's work attractively at children's level and other visual displays, such as posters, promote exposure to diversity of gender and roles, race, ability, and culture								