

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age Level: \_\_\_\_\_

## Observing Space Arrangements for Infant & Toddler Care

**All students must answer questions 1 to 4. In addition, infant placements answer question 5A and toddler placements answer question 5B**

Observe the use of space in your classroom noting furniture, shelves, windows, doors and any other object that take up space. Observe the children's movements in the classroom. Talk with your cooperating teacher about why the classroom is arranged the way it is.

1. Describe children's motion around the classroom. Think of the following ideas as you reflect on this question:

- How much do the children move about?
- During what times?
- What classroom areas are used most often?

2. When and where does there appear to be congestion in the classroom? How can the congestion be reduced?

- There is enough usable space indoors so children are not crowded
- There is enough usable space for outdoor play
- There are clear pathways for children to move from one area to another without disturbing activities

3. How is child safety handled in the classroom? How can safety be improved?

- Areas are organized for easy supervision by staff
- The environment includes soft elements such as rugs, cushions, soft furniture, soft toys
- Look for the presence/absence of: Padding, sharp edges, rough surfaces.
- Are there toys that may be hazardous in any way?

4. Why is the room set up this way? What changes would you make? Why?

- Nonwalkers are provided open space for crawling/toddling and protected space for play, separating groups of nonmobile and mobile infants for safety
- A sufficient quantity of materials and equipment is provided to avoid problems with sharing or waiting
- Materials are durable and in good repair
- Materials are organized consistently on low, open shelves to encourage independent use by children
- Extra materials are accessible to staff to add variety to usual activities
- Materials are rotated and adapted to maintain children's interest
- Individual space is provided for each child's belongings

5A. Design an infant room for eight infants under eight months. Consider separate areas for diapering, feeding sleeping and playing. Consult with your cooperating teacher and other sources for the needs of these infants before you begin.

Included is a checklist you may use to begin formulating your ideas of how to design the classroom:

- Materials reflect the lives of the children and families served
- Materials and equipment reflect the diversity found in society in general
- Simple, lightweight, open-ended, easily washable toys such as containers, balls, pop-beads, nesting cups
- Rattles, squeak toys, action/reaction toys
- Cuddle toys
- Toys to mouth such as teething rings, rings
- Pictures of real objects
- Crawling area with sturdy, stable furniture to pull up self

5B. Design a toddler room for children who are 12-24 months. Take into consideration appropriate activities to promote cognitive, physical and affective development. Consult with your cooperating teacher and other sources before you begin. Included is a checklist you may use to begin formulating your ideas of how to design the classroom:

- Materials reflect the lives of the children and families served
- Materials and equipment reflect the diversity found in society in general
- Push and pull toys
- Manipulatives such as stacking toys, large wooden spools/bead/cubes, pounding bench, simple puzzles
- Sturdy picture books, music
- Toys for pretending, such as play telephone, dolls
- Large paper, crayons, markers
- Sturdy furniture to hold on to while walking
- Sand and water toys

### *Setting up an Infant/Toddler Center*

This checklist may be used as a guide as you design your infant or toddler classroom

#### **Personal Care Items Dramatic and Social Play**

- Evacuation cribs and mattresses
- Aluminum pots and pans
- Reclining baby chairs
- Toddler furniture
- Air chairs
- Doll beds
- High chairs
- Doll carriage
- Low high chairs
- Telephone
- Changing Table
- House cleaning items
- Group divider panels
- Sand and water table
- Wagon for six
- Dress up clothing

#### **Large Muscle Play**

- Nursery gym set
- Rocking pony
- Tumbling mat
- Giant ball for rolling on tummy, etc.

#### **Blocks**

- Mini hollow blocks
- Set of foam blocks
- Block storage box

#### **Classroom Furniture**

- Toddler bench
- Child sized tables
- Infant shelf
- Cots/sheets
- Low storage shelves
- Rest mats
- Locker/cubby
- Screens
- Half circle table
- Adult chairs
- Child's rocking chair
- Child's chairs