

Infant Environment

0-18 Months

Environments that provide a variety of materials that infants can explore with all five senses (see, touch, smell, taste, hear) support brain development and help infants make sense of the world. They need to move around and explore so that they can begin to gain control of their bodies. A secure attachment with a responsive and warm caregiver allows the infant to feel safe and provides a secure base from which to explore.

Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photographs of familiar objects Board books Picture books Soft books Wordless books 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher/Family made books with photos Books in children's home language Puppets
Music and Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Push and pull items Balls Riding toys Tunnel, hoops, balance beam, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climbing equipment Instruments, shakers, chimes Scarves for dancing and moving Instrumental music - CD or MP3
Cozy Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small peaceful area Pillow or stuffed toy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few toys to play with by oneself Mirror
Art and Sensory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensory Table with non-food materials (i.e. water, sand, ice, shredded paper, leaves, etc) Fill and pour materials (i.e. scoops, buckets, measuring cups, funnels, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensory Bottles Variety of scents Variety of textures (i.e. brushes, sponges, tissue paper, etc) Opportunities to use paint and clay
Sense of Self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mirrors Reach and grab items Places to pull-up and cruise Props that can be rotated (i.e. doll items, handbags, menus) Culturally diverse dramatic play items (i.e. play food, bowls, wooden utensils, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community helper costumes Real materials and containers (i.e. wooden spoons, small pots/pans, baskets, empty food boxes, juice cartons, etc.)
Manipulative and Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sorting material of different shapes, sizes and color Books that include counting and shapes Assorted containers, boxes, buckets, stacking cups Shape sorters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teething items (wooden) and rattles At least two types of blocks Culturally diverse block props Trucks, cars, animals, etc. Items to dump and fill