

Environment and Beliefs

Before beginning take a few minutes to reflect on your beliefs and knowledge of child development and how each element is address within the classroom environment. Take a few minutes to ask yourself how the classroom environment supports children in the following ways:

Physical: How and where is physical growth and maturation observed? Where and when do children engage in opportunities to develop motor skills, discuss and compare sensory sensation and perception, and develop spatial awareness?

Social: How does the environment support social interactions and relationships between and among teachers and peers? Identify areas in the environment that are set up to promote pro-social behaviors? Does the environment support children in controlling their own aggression and other challenging behaviors? If so how? How does the environment foster children's autonomy and sense of self?

Emotional: Give examples of how the environment supports emotional competence? How do children in the classroom demonstrate their sense of conscience? How does the environment support children in coping with stress and develop resiliency?

Cognitive: Give examples of how children engaging in activities that support development of executive functioning skills such as (attention, memory, mental representation)? List activities that support the development of logic and reasoning? How much time is given to children to develop concept acquisition? When and where are children engaged in activities that encourage them to make comparisons and classify. When and where in the classroom are children encouraged to use imaginative or magical thinking to develop worlds of their own?