

Module 4: Curriculum and Learning Environments



Power point 1

Objective

The student will describe environments which nurture children and stimulate learning.

Discussion Qs for groups

1. What are the components that make a good early learning environment?

1. What is needed in a good outdoor environment?

A child-centered environment consists of several elements:

- Staff working closely with children, observing them carefully, and following their lead when possible.
- Stimulating, challenging activities available throughout the day.
- Program scheduling, physical layout, and procedures that are best for the children in that space
- Children choosing activities

Points to Consider when designing curriculum

- Providers need to plan for individual differences when scheduling activities for groups of children.
- Each child is on his/her own timetable for growth and development.
- What may be a risky temptation for one child may never even be noticed by another child.

Providers should also be aware that:

- The developmental range in the same-age group may be two years or more.
- Individual children may have unique interests or skills outside the age range of the group.
- Children with special needs may require certain activities to be modified.



Examples of some of the interest centers that could be included in an early learning space include:

- Blocks
- Outdoor/large muscles area
- Creative Art
- Music
- Dramatic play
- Sensory exploration
- Library/quiet area
- Literacy/writing
- Table toys/manipulatives
- Science
- Computer
- Woodworking/building area

