

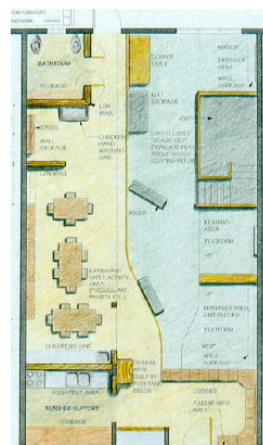


SPACES FOR CHILDREN Classrooms as Landscapes for Learning

Well-designed environments support exploration, give young children a sense of control, and enable children to engage in focused, self-directed play. Poorly designed environments, on the other hand, discourage these activities. And because well-designed environments are engaging, they minimize problematic behaviors such as aggressiveness and aimless wandering. The physical environment affects children's learning and development in many ways.

The physical environment also affects relationships. Well-designed spaces evoke a sense of security, which is a prerequisite in the formation of a healthy identity. And in appropriately designed classrooms, the children are given an opportunity to play both independently and in small groups, and the teachers are supported in their role as observers and facilitators of children's learning and development.

The physical environment affects a program's ability to promote best practice. It can become a tool for both staff and program development. An appropriately designed environment helps teachers to experience more appropriate interactions with children.



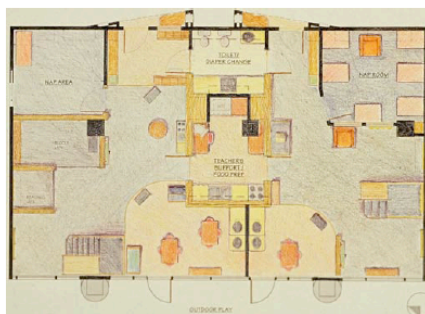
All furnishings, including children's sinks and toilets, are designed to fit the age of the children.
(Photos, top row)



PRE-SCHOOL
CLASSROOMS
(Center row photos &
floor plan far right)



All classrooms include a "Teacher Support" area, providing a work space for documentation and accommodation for food prep activities.
(Photo to left; center space in floor plan to right)



INFANT / TODDLER CLASSROOMS
(Floor plan above and lower row photos)



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