

module 6 Planning Indoor and Outdoor Environments

Outline

Description

This module considers the importance of the physical environment in early childhood programs. It begins with an overview of the essential elements of environments and how to design and equip indoor and outdoor environments to support children's development and learning. You'll then learn how to ensure that the environment welcomes all children and adults, promotes health and ensures children's safety, and is aesthetically pleasing. Finally you'll learn how to create support spaces for adults, including administrators, teachers, families, and other ancillary staff.

Objectives

After completing Planning Indoor and Outdoor Environments, you will be able to:

- Describe the role of the environment in communicating your program's values
- Determine an appropriate balance between risk and challenge in your indoor and outdoor environments
- Design and equip indoor and outdoor environments for children that are safe, educational, age appropriate, and aligned with your program's values
- Design and equip indoor and outdoor environments that are inclusive and bias free
- Create adequate spaces for administrative and support staff and for teachers to think, plan, and work together in partnership with families

Content

I. Introduction

- A. Importance of the topic
- B. Module goals and objectives
- C. Overview of content

II. The Importance of the Environment

- A. Aligning program values and the environment
- B. Four environmental needs
- C. Safe and healthy environments

III. Indoor and Outdoor Environments

- A. Elements of effective environments
- B. Designing and equipping safe, educational, and age-appropriate environments
- C. Designing inclusive and bias-free environments

IV. A Place for Adults

- A. Places for adults—Directors, teachers, families, support staff
- B. The importance of order
- C. Environmental leadership—the director's role

V. A Final Word