# module 7 Supporting Children's Development and Learning

## Outline

**Description**

Supporting children's development and learning is at the heart of why early childhood programs exist. In this module, you'll learn about the interactive environment, how to ensure continuity of care, and the advantages and disadvantages of different grouping and staffing patterns. You'll then examine the many facets of developmentally appropriate practice (DAP) and the role of play in early childhood programming. Finally you'll learn how to design and implement curriculum and the importance of observation and assessment in achieving program goals.

**Objectives**

After completing Supporting Children's Development and Learning, you will be able to:

- Create a warm, responsive, and caring interactive environment to support children's development and learning

- List the components of developmentally appropriate practice and describe the role of play in curriculum

- Design effective curriculum

- Examine the purposes of and strategies for observation and assessment

- Connect assessment and curriculum to produce meaningful program outcomes

- Identify the role of an intentional teacher in implementing curriculum and assessment

I. **Introduction**
   A. Importance of the topic
   B. Module goals and objectives
   C. Overview of content

II. **The Interactive Environment**
   A. Staffing classrooms
   B. Implementing primary teaching and continuity of care
   C. The director's role in creating and maintaining the interactive environment

III. **Developmentally Appropriate Practice**
   A. What is DAP and why is it important?
   B. The role of play in developmentally appropriate practice and curriculum
   C. The director's role in developmentally appropriate practice

IV. **Curriculum, Observation, and Assessment**
   A. Curriculum
   B. Observation and assessment
   C. Putting it all together—The intentional teacher

V. **A Final Word**