

# Five Things to Know That Impact Quality

1. WHY should I embrace the concept of giving children of all ages lots of opportunities throughout the day to choose materials and activities?

During choice time children learn to make appropriate choices, use their imaginations, develop social skills, develop language, and explore and expand interests and skills in a way that is most effective for them.

2. WHY is it important to include learning centers in the arrangement of the room?

Learning centers provide learning opportunities for individuals and small groups, help children develop self-regulation, support age-appropriate classroom management strategies, support an organized classroom, and encourage authentic observation and assessment.

3. WHAT is the primary role of a teacher?

Children learn best through hands-on and minds-on use of materials. Teachers facilitate learning while children engage in interest centers and interact with peers. Teachers use play opportunities as teachable moments by engaging children in conversation, asking children probing questions, and helping them to develop new skills.

4. WHY do I need many and varied materials?

Children develop at different rates and interests change over time as new skills are developed. Having a wide variety of all types of materials accommodates the development and learning styles of all children in the group; encourages on-going cognitive, social and motor development; reduces conflict and competition; and ensures that emerging individual developmental needs are addressed.

5. WHY are sanitary practices so important?

Sanitary practices reduce the transmission of disease and teach young children the importance of personal hygiene. When sanitary practices are incorporated into the curriculum, children internalize the importance of these life skills necessary for good health, reducing teacher and child illness.