

Essential Keys to Creating an Effective Learning environment

1. Comply with State and Head Start licensing rules and regulations :

- Health and Safety
- Parent board
- DOE notebook

2. Arrange furniture and create specific learning centers:

-Learning centers include Foundational Literacy, Reading/Listening, Math, Science, Writing, Creativity, Block, Dramatic Play, Sand/water.

- Separate noisy centers from quiet centers.

*Children need quiet areas while working on materials that require concentration.

-Each center should have an ample amount of space for children and teachers to move around freely.

3. Clear view of children

- Check for blind spots in the classroom to ensure proper supervision.

* Tall furniture should be placed against the wall.

4. Intentional learning materials and activities

-Provide open-ended materials that encourage purposeful and inquiry-based play.

-Rotate materials periodically based on your students' interests and development.

-Keep focused learning objectives and standards in mind when selecting items.

5. Promote sense of belonging with display and other materials

-Post materials in meaningful ways to support current curriculum theme.

-Reflect families' culture.

■ **Every child has diverse strengths rooted in their family’s culture, background, language, and beliefs.** Responsive and respectful learning environments welcome children from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Effective teaching practices and learning experiences build on the unique backgrounds and prior experiences of each child.

Resource: Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework, Guiding Principles

6. Provide a warm and caring learning environment to support brain development. Children need to feel safe and secure to learn.

- Interact positively.
- Use calm voice, respectful language.
- Watch tone of voice and body language.
- Practice active listening.
- Catch and describe how students are meeting the classroom expectations, focusing on their effort.

■ **Children learn best when they are emotionally and physically safe and secure.** Nurturing, responsive, and consistent care helps create safe environments where children feel secure and valued. In these settings, children are able to engage fully in learning experiences.

Resource: Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework, Guiding Principles

7. Create a developmentally appropriate organization and management system:

- Label (pictures and words) the material containers and shelves.
- Color coded storage bins for each center are encouraged.
- Post visuals of the number of children allowed in each center.
- Post visual, student-friendly classroom schedule.