



Reflect on your own experiences with children, families, and colleagues. If you are an supervisor, administrator, or adult educator, how might you use these questions and activities to help other adults reflect on their experiences?

## Examine the Environments

The Italian educators of Reggio Emilia say “the environment is the third teacher.” When you carefully plan your routines and schedules, as well as, the kinds and combinations of materials you offer, the learning environment can be a big part of your curriculum, and have a considerable effect on the social and emotional environments.

Rather than drawing upon commercial, risk-adverse materials, consider materials that engage children's sense of adventure, support their desire to be powerful and invite them to do real work that contributes to the community. What comes to mind?

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Consider open-ended materials and loose parts, things from the natural world, and real tools. List as many things as you can that fit these categories.

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