

## Child-centered schedules

A child-centered daily schedule isn't a free-for-all where children do whatever they want all day. To the contrary, you play an active role in all aspects of the daily schedule, offering children free choice time as well as opportunities to lead or participate in activities that you initiate and organize. A child-centered schedule might look like this:

- The routines for daily living and learning happen in the same sequence each day, but the amount of time for each routine is based on the children's rhythms and interests.
- A large amount of time is available each day for children's self-initiated play within an environment carefully planned by the teacher. (Remember, research shows that children require more than 30 minutes of sustained, engaged, self-initiated play for complex play to emerge.)
- Cleanup is not always required before a child moves to another area in order to help children learn to sustain their attention.
- The teacher reorders the environment during child-initiated play to help maintain order and the children's focus.
- The teacher coaches children to negotiate taking turns rather than setting rigid time limits.
- There are opportunities throughout the day when children are invited to participate in activities initiated and led by the teacher. These activities fully involve the children through use of materials and active engagement with the teacher and each other.
- There is limited teacher-directed instruction when children have to sit and wait [listen?] with no active involvement.