

# **HANDOUT 5**

## **Environment Strategies**

Preschool Curriculum Framework, Vol. 1, pp. 103-108, 146-150

- 1. The daily schedule for adult-child and child-child interactions:**
  - Create opportunities within the day for adult-child and child-child interactions.
  - Have consistency in the daily schedules, routines and schedules.
  - Plan interactions to foster language and literacy that include exposure to print, writing, and drawing materials as well as conversations with adults and peers.
- 2. Large group space:**
  - Have children sit together for group songs, games, and discussions.
  - Have children face a wall with attractive and uncluttered displays.
- 3. Small group spaces:**
  - Gather children in small groups:
    - Small groups allow for more individual time.
    - Small groups help ensure that each child interacts with a teacher every day.
- 4. A space for family related items:**
  - Create displays that include such things as family photos, child-parent drawings, or projects:
    - Family related items create a link between home and school.
- 5. Centers or interest areas:**
  - Create individual centers or interest areas, each focusing on a unique kind of experience.
  - Create paths leading to areas are free of barriers.
  - Create centers where children can work alone or in groups.
  - Provide choices.
- 6. Prepare materials ahead of time for maximizing language and literacy:**
  - Select and prepare materials needed in advance of small-and large-group activities.
  - Minimize the amount of time children wait.
  - Tap into children's home cultures to make their experiences meaningful.
- 7. Arrange learning environments to facilitate children and prompt conversations:**
  - Think ahead about what fascinates children and what will make them learn.
  - Create a spot in the classroom for inspecting interesting things (e.g., shavings from pencil sharpeners, paintbrush bristles, feathers, seeds, or shells).
  - Be an intentional teacher who joins children as they explore in learning environments.
- 8. Extend the classroom beyond its walls (examples):**
  - Put up road signs for an outdoor tricycle path and have paper and writing tools available for making speeding tickets.
  - Use child-made flyers advertising lemonade stands and drive through restaurants for outside play.
  - Provide clipboards to support children in writing and drawing outside.