

Exploring Learning Environments – Suggested Responses

You have an important role to help staff members create learning environments that are aesthetically pleasing, intellectually stimulating, nurturing, and physically and psychologically safe. Watch the [videos](#) and identify the ways these spaces promote positive learning outcomes.

Exploring Learning Environments: School-Age Program Video

1. What do you like about how this physical space is organized?

It is clean, well-organized, and welcoming.

2. How does this space help promote independence?

Materials are stored near where they will be used. Materials are labeled, and children can access what they need. Children are also free to choose where they would like to play and what to do there.

3. What features of this space promote engagement and intellectual stimulation?

Children can choose between multiple interesting opportunities. There are challenging, long-term projects (like woodworking projects or theater).

4. What features of this space help children feel comfortable and confident?

Children can see the whole program and know what is going on in each area. Items are labeled clearly and arranged in an organized way. Children can make choices based on their interests. The area contains home-like features, like a comfortable seating area. Children's art is prominently displayed.

Exploring Learning Environments: Infant Video

1. What do you like about how this physical space is organized?

Learning materials and displays are on children's eye level. An adult sits on the floor and interacts with a child. The space is designed with the developmental needs of children in mind.

2. How does this space help promote exploration?

Lots of interesting materials are available for mobile infants to discover on their own. Non-mobile infants are provided interesting materials and engaging interactions.

3. What features of this space accommodate children across a range of ages and developmental levels?

There is a foam floor chair that can be used for rocking, an area with mats for climbing, a variety of surfaces (carpet, tile, mats etc.), a separate area for children to explore safely and pull-up on bars, and interesting displays at eye level.