PITC ACTIVITIES

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THE PROGRAM FOR INFANT/TODDLER CAREGIVERS

Like Best & Least

Module: II
Topic: Environment
Type: Reflection / Discussion
Group Size: Individuals and Small Groups
Time: 15 - 30 minutes

Purpose:

1. To engage participants in identifying environmental factors that create more effective and comfortable environments.
2. To identify areas in the classroom that are functioning effectively and areas that are in need of change/improvement in the participants' child care environments.
3. To stimulate reflective thinking and facilitate meaningful discussions on effective child care environments and how to achieve them.

What you will need:

Participant Materials	Trainer Materials	Equipment
The following handouts: :: Look At Your Child Care Environment :: Key Environmental Concepts	:: Look At Your Child Care Environment :: Key Environmental Concepts	Optional: :: Overhead Projector & screen :: Transparency 5, Module II

Directions:

Part One: Individual Reflection

1. Ask participants to individually think about their child care environments, indoors and outdoors.
2. Ask them to first think about the areas that they like, areas in which children are engaged and in which there are few problems, etc. (See specific questions above the first table on the handout.)
3. Then ask them to think about the areas that work less well. (See specific questions on handout.)
4. Encourage them to record their responses.

Part Two: Discussions

1. In small groups (possibly in classroom groups), ask them to share their responses.
2. With the whole group, invite a few volunteers to share responses.

Part Three: Transition

1. Share with participants that PITC has identified 8 important factors that contribute to environments that are more comfortable and effective for both children and adults. Show the list on transparency and/or refer to it in their handouts.
2. Point out, or ask them to identify, the factors that came up in the responses to the activity. Let them know that now time will be spent exploring each of these factors.
3. Invite participants to use the handout: Key Environmental Concepts for note taking.

Variations:

:: At the end of the session, ask participants to refer back to the places they indicated they like least. Have them identify any of the areas they want to change and strategize how they might change them.

Links to Head Start Program Performance Standards:

Includes but not limited to:

:: 1304.21(b)(1)(ii)-(iii) Emotionally secure and physically safe environment

:: 1304.21(b)(2)(i) Social emotional environment

:: 1304.21(b)(3)(i)-(ii) Open and accessibly indoor and outdoor space for children to practice skills

Activity Developed by:

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Source Material:

Lally, J.R. (Executive Producer/Content Developer/Writer), Mangione P.L. (Content Developer/Writer), & Signer, S. (Content Developer/Writer). (1988). *Space to grow: Creating a child care environment for infants and toddlers* [Videotape]. United States: The Program for Infant/Toddler Caregivers (Developed collaboratively by the California Department of Education and WestEd).

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LOOK AT YOUR CHILD CARE ENVIRONMENT

What works well? Think about your center's environment, indoors and outdoors. Think about the areas that work well. Consider these questions: Where are children engaged and/or functioning well with few problems? Where do they enjoy being? Where do you enjoy being?

Places in the center I like best:	**Describe why. What makes them effective, positive, inviting, enjoyable?**

Where would you like for the environment to work more effectively? Think about the areas, indoors and out, that do not work as well as you would like. Where do children go less often? Where do they function less well? Where are there more problems? Where do you least like being?

Places in the center I like least:	**Describe why. What makes them uninviting, not very enjoyable or pleasant, difficult?**

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The Program for Infant/Toddler Caregivers

KEY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The infant/toddler caregiving environment should:

1. Ensure **safety**	**2.** Promote **health**
2. Provide **comfort**	**4.** Be **convenient**
5. Be **child-sized**	**6.** Maximize **flexibility**
7. Encourage **movement**	**8.** Allow for **choice**

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Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers

***KEY ENVIRONMENTAL CONCEPTS*/CONCEPTOS AMBIENTALES CLAVES**

El medio ambiente para el cuidado del bebé/infante que camina debe:
The infant/toddler caregiving environment should:

*1. Ensure **safety/*** Garantizar **seguridad**	2. *Promote **health***/Promover **salud**
3. *Provide **comfort***/Proveer **comodidad**	4. *Be **convenient***/Ser **conveniente**
5. *Be **Child-sized***/Ser apropiado para la **estatura del niño**	6. *Maximize **flexibility***/Dar máxima importancia a la **flexibilidad**
7. *Encourage **movement***/Estimular el **movimiento**	8. *Allow for **choice/***Permitir **elecciones**

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