PITC ACTIVITIES

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THE PROGRAM FOR INFANT/TODDLER CAREGIVERS

Chart: Space to Grow Key

Module: II
Topic: Environments
Type: Case Study / Scenario
Group Size: Small Group
Time: 60 - 90 minutes

Purpose:

1. To identify the strengths and challenges of a child care environment.
2. To develop goals and identify strategies to improve the quality of the environment.

What you will need:

Participant Materials	Trainer Materials	Equipment
The following handouts: :: Chart: Eight Environmental Key Concepts from the PITC Video: *Space to Grow* :: Handout: Video Magazine *Space to Grow* (This Video Magazine may be purchased in sets of 50 from CDE Press 1-800-995-4099).	:: PITC Video: *Space to Grow: Creating a Child Care Envirnonment for Infants and Toddlers.* :: Prepare chart paper: • One key concept as the heading for each page • 2 columns - strengths & needs	:: VCR/Monitor :: Overhead Projector & Screen :: Vis-à-vis markers :: Blank transparency sheets :: Chart paper, markers, tape

Directions:

1. Create small groups of about 4 to 6 participants who work in the same room or with the same or similar age groups (young, mobile, older, mixed-age). There can be more than one group for each age group. Assign a recorder and facilitator for each group.
2. View the PITC Video *Space to Grow* in segments. Stop after each key concept.
3. Ask participants to discuss and record the strengths and needs of their environment for that key concept on the environment handout.
4. Ask for brief feedback from each group. Comment on the strengths and challenges unique to each age group or program. Record the participants' feedback in the appropriate column on the chart paper.
5. Continue to view the video segments on each environmental concept, work in small groups, and debrief.
6. After viewing the entire video, assign the small groups to discuss and develop goals for their room/program for each key concept. Use the environment handout to document goals.
7. Report back: Ask each small group to share one or two of their goals and strategies with the large group.

Variations:

:: View the first four concepts together, then discuss the program's strengths & needs in small groups. Ask each group to report back to the large group. View the next four concepts, discuss and report back again. If time is limited, assign only one or two key concepts to each small group. If the childcare rooms are available, first view the entire video, then have participants go into the room used by the assigned age group to complete the strengths and needs columns of the chart.

:: Trainer can use various photographs of child care environments to identify the strengths and challenges.

:: A column can be added to identify considerations to keep in mind for children with special needs.

Links to Head Start Program Performance Standards:

:: 1304.21(a)(1)(i)-(iv) Education and Early Childhood Development

:: 1304.22(e)(1)-(7) Child Health and Safety

:: 1304.52(a)(1)-(10)(i)-(iv),(viii), (ix),(x),(xi),(xiv), (xv) Facilities, Equipment, and Materials

:: 1304.53(a)(10)(xvii),

:: 1304.53(b)(1),(i)-(vi), (b)(3)

Activity Developed by:

Cheryl Oku, PITC Certified Trainer

Source Material:

Lally, J.R. (Executive Producer/Content Developer/Writer), Mangione P.L. (Content Developer/Writer), & Signer, S. (Content Developer/Writer). (1988) or 2nd Edition (2002). *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).

Lally, J.R., & Stewart, J. (Eds.). (1990). *Infant/toddler Caregiving: A guide to setting up environments*. Sacramento, CA: California Department of Education.

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Key Concepts from Space to Grow Chart

	Strengths: How do we currently provide this?	**Needs:** What's missing, needed, challenging, frustrating?	**Goals:** What do we want for children, families, staff?	**Strategies:** List specific actions or resources
HEALTH				
SAFETY				

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COMFORT				
CONVENIENCE				

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CHILD SIZE				
FLEXIBLITY				

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MOVEMENT				
CHOICE				

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