

# **Organizing Space**

- □ The space is inviting to children. It includes
  - □ Softness
  - Rounded corners
  - □ Pleasing colors and textures
  - □ Natural materials and light
  - Cozy places
- □ The space is divided into well-defined interest areas to encourage distinctive types of play.
- □ The interest areas include:
  - □ House area (Must be incorporated)
  - Block area (Must be incorporated)
  - Art area (Must be incorporated)
  - Book & Writing area (Must be incorporated)
  - □ Toy area (Must be incorporated)
  - □ Sand and Water (Outside if not in classroom)
  - □ Music and movement area
  - □ Computer area
  - □ Woodworking area
- □ The space incorporates places for group activities, eating, napping, and storing children's belongings.

## **Establishing Interest Areas**

- □ The interest areas are arranged to promote visibility and easy movement between areas:
  - □ The sand and water area is close to water.
  - □ The art area is close to water.
  - □ The block and house areas are closet to each other.
  - □ The toy and book areas are located away from vigorous play areas.
  - □ The woodworking area is outdoors or near the art area.
  - □ The computer area avoids screen glare.
- The storage of materials promotes the find-use- return cycle.
  - □ Similar things are stored together.
  - Children can see into and handle containers.
  - Labels make sense to children. They are made from
    - □ The materials themselves
    - □ Photographs, photocopies
    - Pictures
    - □ Line drawings, tracings
    - □ Written words in addition to any of the above
- Materials are plentiful, support a wide range of play, and reflect children's family lives.

### In the sand and water area

- □ Fill-and empty materials
- □ Floating materials
- □ Pretend-play materials
- Alternatives to sand and water
- □ Waterproof gear and cleanup materials

### In the block area

- Building materials
- □ Take-apart-and-put together materials
- □ Fill-and empty materials
- □ Pretend-play materials
- □ Reference photos

## In the house area

- Cooking and eating equipment
- Pretend and role-play materials
- Homelike materials reflecting children's lives
- Real cooking equipment
- □ Reference photos and recipes

### In the art area

- □ Paper (Diverse type and size)
- Painting
- Fasteners
- Modeling and molding materials
- □ Collage materials
- Drawing and cutting materials

### In the toy area

- □ Sorting and small building materials
- □ Take-apart-and-put together materials
- □ Games
- □ Pretend-play materials

### In the book and writing area

- □ Books (Diverse type and size)
- Magazines
- □ Storytelling props
- □ Writing materials

#### In the woodworking area

- □ Fasteners

#### In the music and movement area

- Percussion instruments
- Simple wind instruments
- □ Recording equipment and recordings
- □ Props for dancing

#### In the computer area

 Software programs appropriate for young children