

Handout #11

Guide to Toys and Materials for the Play Environment

1. Availability of Objects

A good selection of toys and play objects promotes early intellectual competence.

2. Variety of Toys or Objects

Learning is enhanced by a care teacher who adds to and changes the type of toys available over time.

3. Challenging Toys Matched to a Child's Level of Development

Toys or play materials that pose new problems but are sufficiently familiar to the child work best.

4. Toys Whose Play Value Endures Throughout Childhood

Open-ended toys encourage use in an endless variety of ways as the child grows.

5. Responsive Toys

Toys that change how they look or sound when a child does something to them promote the discovery process.

Handout #12 Safety Reminders



DO:

Keep heavier toys on lower shelves

Use only non-toxic and non-inflammable toys

Inspect toys regularly for cracks, breakage, or small loose parts



DON'T USE:

- newsprint or bleach bottles for play
- objects children can put in their mouths and swallow
- toys with small holes to trap little fingers
- equipment with sharp or splintery edges or corners
- fragile plastics or other materials that can break and leave sharp edges
- anything hard or heavy enough to hurt if dropped
- equipment with long, narrow parts that can reach back in a baby's mouth
- stringed toys infants can swallow or wrap around the neck