

# Exploring

## school-age children

Capital District Child Care Council *a tipsheet for parents and caregivers of children ages 5 to 13*



Capital District  
Child Care Council

*a tipsheet for parents and caregivers of children ages 5 to 13*

## Creating a Learning Environment

The space around us effects the way we feel and what we feel like doing. The same statement is true for school-age children. The environment should be comfortable and home-like. The space for a school-age program is extremely important. Children feel most at home when they have helped design their own spaces. Children need different environments to accommodate their different moods and activities.

### Tips For Creating a Learning Environment:

#### Include Space for the following activities

- Creative Arts
- Board Games & Puzzles
- Blocks & Construction
- Dramatic Play
- Physical Games
- Nutrition & Cooking
- Quiet
- Music, Movement & Dance
- Science & Nature
- Math & Computer
- Sand & Water

#### Soft Space that is comfortable and relaxing

- Pillows
- Bean bag chairs
- Rugs and carpets (carpet pieces work great!)

#### Private Space

- Personal space for belongings
- Small space to be with a few friends
- Private space to be alone

#### Work Space

- Tables and chairs that are the appropriate size for school-age children
- Variety of work surfaces that are easy to clean and allow for messy activities
- Adequate size for the number of children involved

#### Well Organized Space for a Wide Range of Simultaneous Activities

- Without interruptions
- Active play away from quiet area
- Pathways that do not disturb ongoing activities

#### Furniture for school-age programs includes

- Dividers for private spaces
- Bookshelves
- Snack table
- Refrigerator for perishable snack items
- Telephone
- Cubbies or baskets for belongings
- Portable shelving units (available for children)
- Storage area for teacher material and confidential information
- Bulletin board/parent tables/sign-in and out table
- Space for childrens' creations

#### Creating a Floor Plan

Once a program has decided what areas they want in their school-age program, then the fun begins - creating a floor plan that works. When creating the layout of a school-age program there are many things to consider.

- Traffic flow
- Storage use at site
- Activity levels
- Noise levels
- Lighting convenience and level

The space around us affects the way we feel