

# HOW TO SET UP INFANT & TODDLER LEARNING SPACES TO FACILITATE EXPLORATION

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## Change It Up

- Add new things to your room, and rotate toys.
- Change the theme often to encourage interest and exploration.
- Experiencing new toys and activities helps children to be more engaged.

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## Be Excited about Toys and Materials Yourself

- Show the children new and fun things
- Your excitement helps them to feel excited

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## Make Each Area Serve a Purpose

- Organize different spaces to designate a clear purpose.
  - Have an art table next to your art materials
- Keep materials clean, organized, and in good working condition.

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## Make Your Space Warm and Inviting

- Add a cozy, private space where children can go to decompress.
- Display children's work and photos to make the space feel like theirs.
- Add elements from the children's different cultures to your room.
- Use items from nature, such as fish and plants

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## Follow Children's Leads

- Follow their lead in regards to toys and materials
- Mirror the behavior of the children to show you are interested in their play and ideas
- Observe the children to learn their interests so you can introduce things they might like. Use your space to facilitate the child's exploration and learning.
  - If they are interested in toys with shapes on them, grab other toys with shapes and introduce those.