

Resources, materials and equipment allow for multiple uses, are sufficient in number, and enable every child to engage in play-based learning.

Section 1. Early career educator



You must know

When you become an educator, it's important to understand how resources and equipment allow children to use them in different ways, keep the environment flexible, and support their interests and abilities.

What could potentially go wrong if educators didn't do the above? If educators don't follow these principles, a few things could go wrong:

Limited creativity and problem-solving: When resources and activities only have one set way to use them, it can limit children's creativity and problem-solving skills.

Frustration and disengagement: If children constantly have to wait for a turn to use resources, it can make them frustrated and less interested in learning.

Lack of connection and engagement: When educators don't consider children's individual interests and abilities, it can make them feel left out or not fully engaged in what they're doing.

Missed learning opportunities: If the resources and equipment don't match the goals of the program, it can be confusing and make it harder for children to learn effectively.

Limited growth and confidence: Taking appropriate risks is important for our growth and confidence. If children are not encouraged to face challenges and explore new things in a safe environment, they might miss out on developing important skills and becoming more independent.



You must practice

It's very important to make sure resources, materials and equipment allow for multiple uses, are enough in number, and enable every child to engage in play-based learning.

These resources should challenge children and encourage them to take appropriate risks. Here's why each aspect is important:

Lack of Engagement: Without organising and adapting the spaces to match individual interests and preferences, children may struggle to find activities that interest them, leading to boredom and disinterest. This can result in behaviours like restlessness or seeking attention through disruptive actions.

Allowing multiple uses and rearranging the environment: When children can use resources in different ways and the environment can be changed, it sparks their creativity and problem-solving skills. They get to explore and imagine, which is very important for their development.

Being plentiful and accessible: If there are enough resources and children don't have to wait too long to use them, they stay engaged and excited about learning. Waiting for a long time can make kids frustrated and less interested in activities. It's also important to make sure everyone has equal access to resources.

Supporting all children's interests and abilities: Children have different interests and abilities, and it's critical to respect and cater to them. If educators don't consider this, some children might feel left out or not fully engaged in learning.

Supporting program and learning outcomes: The resources and equipment should align with what we're learning and trying to achieve. If they don't match the goals of the program, it can be confusing and make it harder for children to reach our learning targets. We want everything to fit together and make sense.

Challenging children and supporting appropriate risk-taking: Taking risks is a part of learning and growing. If we're not encouraged to take appropriate risks and face challenges, we might miss out on developing

important skills like problem-solving, decision-making, and resilience. It's about finding the right balance between safety and pushing ourselves.



After reading these points, which one(s) do you think you doing well? Describe your practice in detail.

After reading these points, which one(s) do you think you need to work on? Describe how you could improve your practice.

Things to talk to children about regarding allowing multiple uses and rearranging the environment

Educator: Hey everyone! Today, we have some exciting loose parts for you to explore, we picked up all this cool stuff from the electrical shop down the road. Remember, you can use them in different ways and be as creative as you want.

Children: (Engage in discussions and make suggestions for rearranging the play area)

Educator: Great ideas, everyone! Can you tell me what it is? Remember, there are no right or wrong ways to use them. Let your imaginations run wild!

Being plentiful and accessible

Educator: Alright, everyone, we have lots and lots of resources out today and there's plenty for all of us. You won't have to wait too long to use them, but if someone is playing with what you want ask them to tell you when they have finished.

Children: (Engage in using the resources, sharing, and taking turns)

Supporting all children's interests and abilities:

Educator: Today, we have changed lots of materials to play with today. Take a look and choose something that excites you. Let's make sure everyone finds something they enjoy.

Child 1: I love building, so I'll choose the cable reels.

Child 2: I enjoy drawing, so I'll get the art supplies.

Child 3: I want to play with the pallets.

Supporting program and learning outcomes

Educator: Our learning today is to practice counting and sorting. Let's find resources that can help us with that. Look for materials that we can count or sort in different ways.

Children: (Search for materials that align with the learning goal)

Educator: Amazing job, everyone! You've selected great resources that will help us learn about counting. Let's start counting and sorting together.

Challenging children and supporting appropriate risk-taking

Educator: Today, we have a challenge for you all. We have some materials that can be a bit tricky to use. We want you to try something new. I'll be here to help you if you need it.

Child: I need a little help.

Educator: That's the way! Take your time, ask for help if you need it, I believe in you, and I get excited to see how you can do it!