

# What does quality early education look like?



## Child-Staff Ratios

- There are enough adults in the room to allow for individual student attention.

## Teacher -Child Interactions

- Staff are welcoming to parents and children.
- Teachers and children talk with each other often, including having conversations during snack and meal times.
- Teachers get down low and make eye contact when talking to children
- Teachers and children show warmth & enthusiasm, including laughing & smiling together.
- Teachers respect children's ideas, ask their advice and listen with genuine interest to what children say.
- Teachers encourage children to learn concepts through real world experiences, instead of worksheets and memorization.
- Behavior problems and conflicts between children are handled in positive ways.

## The Learning Environment

- The furniture and equipment in indoor and outdoor play areas are age appropriate & child-sized.
- The classroom is set up with a variety of interest areas such as dramatic play, science and nature, math, writing, blocks, art, puzzles and music.
- Materials are well organized and labeled with pictures for independent use by children.
- There is a daily schedule displayed that provides lots of time for children to learn through active play experiences, both indoors and outdoors.
- There is a cozy spot where children may go to relax and have quiet time.
- The environment is literacy rich: it has a variety of interesting books and examples of ABCs & words throughout the classroom.
- There are a variety of math materials for counting, measuring sorting, and learning about shapes and sizes.
- There are current photographs of children and their families displayed in the classroom.
- There are examples of diversity throughout the classroom, highlighting people of different cultures, genders, races, ages and abilities.
- Art & photos are displayed at child eye level.
- Artwork looks like children were encouraged to explore & be creative. It should not all look the same or look as if the teacher did most the work.



## Staff Education,

## Qualifications and Training

- Directors and teachers regularly participate in professional development workshops & trainings
- Teachers are members of professional associations, like NAEYC.
- Staff are certified in CPR and first aid.
- Directors and/or teachers have taken college-level courses in early childhood development
- Teachers use the VA Milestones of Child Development and/or VA Foundation Blocks to plan instructional activities.
- Program staff regularly reflect on what is working in their classrooms and what they can do to improve.



Learn more about the importance of high quality early care and education by visiting ...

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