

### SUGGESTIONS FOR ENRICHING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Provide interesting, engaging materials, indoors and outdoors, at child's current level of ability, as well as materials that will require more effort and challenge.
- Design spaces, that enable children to make choices, using *interest areas* and centers.
- Organize materials so children can choose and put away supplies on their own.
- Keep materials on low shelves; use child-sized furniture and materials, making *adaptations* as necessary so all children can access them.
- Provide extended periods of uninterrupted time for children to work in self-selected interest areas and on activities they choose, promoting *engagement, independence, initiative, risk-taking, and persistence*.
- Keep some materials out for several days or even weeks to encourage more in-depth involvement and persistence.
- Provide space to store children's unfinished work so they can return to it over a period of several days or longer.



### EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

- Utilize everyday experiences to *model* persistence by trying multiple ways to accomplish something.
- Give children plenty of time to play, create, *investigate* and complete tasks and projects. Encourage them to take their time and avoid rushing to get finished.
- Prepare children for *transitions* using cues to gain their attention (ring a bell at five-, three-, and one-minute intervals to inform children that they need to wrap up what they are doing).
- Encourage children to keep trying by asking questions and offering support ("Where do you think this puzzle piece could go? It's hard but you are really trying.").
- Encourage children to finish activities they have started so they can enjoy a sense of accomplishment at completing a task.
- Plan for activities or long-term studies that allow children to think about a topic over an extended period (explore bugs with the children for a few days or weeks in a collection of ways such as reading books, exploring outside, and drawing pictures).
- Emphasize the importance of effort, not just getting a "right answer." Encourage and acknowledge children's efforts.