

SUGGESTIONS FOR ENRICHING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Design the environment that reflects the diversity of families represented in the program (*cultures*, languages, and family make-up). This can include fabrics, signs, books, photos and posters that portray people involved in real life experiences, and other materials that can *prompt* conversations with children.
- Play CDs of children's songs from various cultures, occasionally singing along and encouraging children to join.
- Provide a *dramatic play* area where children can role play.
- Use a variety of *props* to expand children's use of oral and written language such as phone, microphones, and recording devices, computer, paper and writing instruments, etc.
- Set up *interest areas* with objects and experiences that will stimulate children to use descriptive language, such as putting different kinds of rocks in the science/discovery area.
- Provide basic toy phones (which can be purchased or made from plastic PVC pipes and corner joints) that allow children to hear themselves speak, providing immediate feedback.
- Include wordless books to build listening, *vocabulary*, comprehension, and literacy skills.

