

SUGGESTIONS FOR ENRICHING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Maintain environments that support children's ability to carry out *self-care* and hygiene routines independently (step-stool, child-size sink, toilet, coat hook, toothbrushes, etc.).
- Offer toys and *props* to practice self-care behaviors (healthy play food and utensils to feed, dress-up clothes that are easy to put on, tubs to wash baby dolls, etc.).
- Offer play food and kitchen utensils from the *cultures* of the families in the program.
- Provide *hands-on* toys that have buttons, zippers, Velcro®.
- Provide opportunities for children to take on pretend *roles* of health care and safety occupations (doctor, nurse, dentist, firefighter, police officer) to help children understand and feel more comfortable with these professionals.
- Provide a safe environment indoors and outdoors so children can explore without hurting themselves or others. Help families learn about how to provide *safe environments* at home.
- Provide safe, healthy, supportive and *age-appropriate* supervision for all children.
- Include books about healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, dentist, etc.) and books about professionals that keep everyone safe (police officers, firefighters, teachers, etc.).

