

VIRTUAL kit: Learning Environments for Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers

kit QT

A well designed space in your early childhood program can give children a sense of security, promote exploration and learning, and help children be independent, self-directed, and engaged (Torelli, 2006). What are important components of a well-designed space? How do you identify and organize learning centers? What materials are important for each space based on the developmental needs of the children? This virtual kit will assist you in identifying, planning, and creating positive learning environments for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

The following articles and videos give an overview of appropriate environments for young children. In addition to the virtual resources, Environment Rating Scales are helpful tools with specific criteria for best practices in organizing and providing appropriate materials for children (Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, Infant-Toddler Environment Rating Scale, Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale, School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale). These can be found in the ECRC at www.kskits.org or at <https://ers.fpg.unc.edu/environment-rating-scales>. These important tools will help you in identifying best practices for your early childhood environment.

SHOW ME NOW – I NEED IT TOMORROW

[Caring for Our Children \(Chapters 5 & 6\)](#)

[Infant and Toddler Spaces: Design for a Quality Classroom](#)

[Pre-K Spaces: Design for a Quality Classroom](#)

[Preparing the Environment \(Infants and Toddlers\)](#)

[Tips for Teachers: Designing Environments](#)

[Designing Environments \(Video\)](#)

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE? (I HAVE A LITTLE MORE TIME TO READ ABOUT THIS)

[IRIS Center Module: Early Childhood Environments](#)

[Landscape for Learning: The Impact of Classroom Design on Infants and Toddlers](#)

[How Soft is Your Early Childhood Environment?](#)

[Sample Classrooms—Community Playthings](#)

[Classroom Floor Planner—Kaplan](#)

WHAT DOES THE ECRC HAVE ON THIS TOPIC

Below are selected resources from the Early Childhood Resource Center. For additional resources go to the [KITS website](#) and access the Early Childhood Resource Center catalog by clicking on [ECRC](#), or call (620) 421-6550 ext. 1638 for personal assistance.

Bergen, D., Reid, R. & Torelli, L. (2001). Educating and care for very young children: The infant/toddler curriculum. New York City: Teacher's College Press.

Curtis, D. & Carter, M. (2003). Designs for living and learning: Transforming early childhood environments. St. Paul, Minnesota: Redleaf Press.

Greenman, J. (1988). Caring spaces, learning places. Lewisville, North Carolina: Gryphon House.

Harms, T., Clifford, R., & Cryer, D. (2015). Early childhood environment rating scale-3. New York: Teacher's College Press.

Harms, T., Cryer, D., & Clifford, R. (2019). Family child care environment rating scale-3. New York: Teacher's College Press.

Harms, T., Cryer, D., & Clifford, R. (2017). Infant/toddler environment rating scale-3. New York: Teacher's College Press.

Isbell, R. & Exelby, B. (2001). Early learning environments that work. Lewisville, North Carolina: Gryphon House.

Isbell, R. & Isbell, C. (2003). The complete learning spaces book for infants and toddlers. Lewisville, North Carolina: Gryphon House.

HOW CAN I FIND TRAINING/TRAINING MATERIALS ON THIS TOPIC?

- Virtual Lab Schools—Free Online Training Modules
 - [Infant and Toddler: Healthy Environments, Safe Environments, Learning Environments](#)
 - [Preschool: Healthy Environments, Safe Environments, Learning Environments](#)
 - [School Age: Healthy Environments, Safe Environments, Learning Environments](#)
 - [Family Child Care: Healthy Environments, Safe Environments, Learning Environments](#)
- [KCCTO-KITS ITSN Community Based Training](#)
- [KCCTO Online Courses](#)
 - Exploring our World: Creating Infant and Toddler Learning Environments
 - From the Start: Creating Healthy Spaces for Infants and Toddlers
 - Introduction to Designing Environments
 - Supporting Relationships Through Engaging Environments

- Visit these links for collaborative training calendars:
 - [KCCTO Training Calendar](#)
 - [KITS Training Calendar](#)

To inquire about a specific courses, contact the KCCTO office 785-532-7197 or visit [KCCTO.org](#)

IF YOU THOUGHT THIS WAS HELPFUL YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE:

[Creating Environments to Support Positive Behavior](#)

WHAT IF I STILL NEED HELP?

You may request technical assistance from the KCCTO-KITS Infant Toddler Network Specialists by calling the KCCTO office at 800-227-3578.

EVALUATION

Please take a minute to complete a brief survey to let us know what you think about this virtual kit, and what other topics you would like to see addressed in the future.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7JZNXRB>

REFERENCES

Torelli, L. (2006). Environments for infants and toddlers. In J.R. Lally, P.L. Mangione, & D. Greenwald (Eds.), Concepts for care (pp. 85-88). San Francisco, CA: WestEd.