

# Supportive Early Childhood Educational Environments



**Many quality childcare and early education options are available to you. Here are a few things every parent can look for in an early childhood setting that fosters warm relationships, curiosity, and early literacy.**

<b>Do children...</b>	<b>Do staff...</b>
<b>Say “Hello,” use kind words, and call each other by name?</b>	Greet all children and families daily, use kind words, and call students by their names?
<b>Pick what they play, alone and in groups?</b>	Let children pick what they play, and encourage them to try new things?
<b>Express what they need, and ask an adult for help if needed?</b>	Help children use words to solve problems together?
<b>Take turns sharing their ideas and asking each other questions?</b>	Give all children lots of chances to share and listen to each other?
<b>Speak, sing, listen, move, play, and make art?</b>	Use many learning tools like books, artwork, songs and touchable objects?
<b>Converse with their peers and the staff?</b>	Ask students to talk about their play to help them practice language and deep thinking?
<b>Have opportunities for both teacher-led lessons and free choice learning activities?</b>	Lead students in activities and, at other times, give students choices in learning activities?
<b>Have opportunities to use their natural ways of speaking, without interruption?</b>	Listen to respond to what the students say, without correcting their natural language use?



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