

Literacy Rich Waiting Areas

From: International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
IFLA Professional Report 100 Guidelines for Library Services to Babies and Toddlers.

Babies, toddlers, their parents and caregivers should find the space an accessible, inviting, attractive, safe, non-challenging and non-threatening place to visit. There should be no barriers to access, like steps without elevators, or heavy doors, or areas which might be unsafe for crawling and toddling youngsters. Ideally, the youngest children should have an area with developmental toys, books, child-sized furniture, clean rugs or surfaces for floor play and sanitary areas for caring for this age group.

Seating for adults needs to be available as well as for children. With these facilities provided, babies and toddlers and their parents and caregivers can have the opportunity to interact with other families in the area. It is essential that the area is safe for use by young children. It is good practice to carry out a safety check of the space and take action to minimize potential hazards e.g. sharp edges on furniture and shelving are protected, covering electric sockets. Good lighting and a clear contrast of colors makes it easier for a partially sighted child or parents to perceive the environment and orientate themselves in the space.

Literacy Rich Waiting Area Resources

More general information on literacy rich areas:

<http://www.rif.org/educators/advicetips/tip.aspx?View=23>

Where to get supplies:

www.discountsschoolsupply.com

www.childrencarpets.com

www.demco.com

www.schooloutfitters.com

www.kidsfurnituremart.com

www.rosenberryrooms.com

<http://www.creativewallcovering.com/>

<http://www.edwardgonzales.com/buyposters.htm>

<http://www.magic-mural-factory.com/>

<http://www.coloring.ws/coloring.html>

<http://www.dltk-kids.com/coloring.htm>

Setting Up a Library Area

From: Training Guides for the Head Start Learning Community: Emerging Literacy: Linking Social Competence to Learning Module 4

Location: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In a location visible upon entering the room• In an area defined on three sides by low shelves and walls• Away from distractions• In a space large enough for at least four children to use at one time• In a spot with good lighting	Furnishings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child-sized table and chairs• Beanbag chairs• Children's rocking chairs• Large pillows• Carpet or area rug• Low, open shelves
Decorations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Posters and displays related to books• Pictures and signs made by children• Photographs of children and adults reading• Plants• Interesting things to look at and talk about (for example a seashell)	Props to Encourage Acting Out Stories: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Puppets• Felt board and pieces• Items related to familiar books
Books and Related Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Different categories of books (storybooks, concept books, poetry, and so on)• Books displayed at eye level on racks or low, open shelves, with covers facing out• Books that have been read aloud to children• Books that have not been read aloud• Stuffed animals for children to hold while looking at books• Inexpensive children's magazines with well-written articles about interesting topics• Tape player with earphones• Books on tape (purchased or made by staff and families) in resealable plastic bags	
Special Tips: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer a magazine to a child who tends to ignore books• Rotate books regularly so new ones are always on display• Encourage children to care for books by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">—Covering books with clear adhesive paper or library covers—Fixing damaged books or removing them until repaired—Providing a repair kit for mending torn pages• Help children set a few simple rules about caring for books. Post the rules in the library area:<p style="text-align: center;">We Take Care of Our Books We turn pages carefully. We keep pencils, pens, crayons, and markers away from books. We put books back on the shelf (or rack) when finished with them. We put books with torn pages or covers in the repair box.</p>	