



all kids belong
Inclusion Support Services

Have you thought of trying: **ENVIRONMENT**

Remember: As children move through their day, they are evaluating and making connections with their environments. The environment is the third teacher.

- Do you provide a safe and secure environment (respond to hurt children, prevent children from hurting each other, give lots of hugs, etc.)?
- Do you provide a predictable schedule and routines to help children develop a sense of security, trust and belonging?
- Do you observe the children to determine their specific needs (temperament, likes, dislikes, etc.)?
- Is your classroom designed to enhance the development of your current group of children?
- Do you display the children's family photos, class photos, and art projects?
- Do you display materials at the child's level (on wall, on top and sides of cabinets, on floor, etc.)?
- Do you have a culturally diverse welcome sign that includes all the languages at your centre?
- Do you incorporate home-like things such as warm lighting, baskets, pillows, tablecloths, mirrors, couch, plants, etc.?
- Do you have softness in your room (pillows, lava lamps, twinkle lights, snuggly blankets, aquarium, etc.)?
- Have you brought in some items to personalize your classroom space (items you collect, your family photos, your favorite cartoon character, etc.)?
- Do you display nature items such as sea shells, leaves, flowers, rocks, interesting sticks, plants, etc.?
- Do you provide a variety of play places (quiet, active, etc.)?
- Do you praise and encourage children for their effort?
- Do you speak to the children using appropriate language and voice tone?

- Do you use kind and supportive language with the children?
- Do you encourage children to use kind and friendly language?
- Do you talk with children rather than at children?
- Do you go over to the children to speak with them rather than talking to them from across the room?
- Do you encourage social interactions among the children?
- Have you crawled around your classroom, on your knees, to see what the room looks like from a child's view?

This sheet was created by the All Kids Belong team based on their years of knowledge and experience. If you have any further questions about the environment, please talk to your All Kids Belong Resource Consultant.