

Characteristics of Wonder-Filled Environments

Wonder-filled environments meet basic standards for excellence.

1. The setting promotes health and safety so children are free to explore and staff can focus on interactions that build relationships and support learning.
2. There is a balanced array of play materials that address all areas of development.
3. Teachers display and share children's play and activities with families.

Wonder-filled environments support all children, teachers, and families.

1. Everyone feels included; security leads to exploration and learning.
2. Every culture and language is included in the setting through images, toys, artifacts, print, and conversations.
3. Every child's abilities, skills, and interests are fostered in the environment

Wonder-filled environments are dynamic.

1. Teachers observe children's play and how they use the environment.
2. Teachers adapt, add to, remove, and rearrange items to support current skills and interests.
3. Teachers offer new items to provoke children's explorations and creations

Wonder-filled environments support positive behaviors

1. They are a good match for children's developmental skills and needs.
2. They fit the children who live, play, and learn there.
3. They allow teachers to interact with and foster the development and learning of all children.

Wonder-filled environments are individualized.

1. They reflect the group of children currently enrolled.
2. They include the passions of teachers.
3. They are home-like and aesthetically pleasing for the group in attendance.