Wonder-Filled Early Childhood Environments:  
Engaging All Children in Learning  

Resources for Educators

Books

*Bringing the Outside In: Ideas for Creating Nature-Based Classroom Experiences for Young Children*  
Sandra Duncan and Jody Martin  
Gryphon House, 2018

*Caring Spaces Learning Places*  
Jim Greenman, Edited by Mike Lindstrom  
Exchange Press, 2017

*Designs for Living and Learning Together, Transforming Early Childhood Environments, Second Edition*  
Deb Curtis and Margie Carter  
Redleaf Press, 2014

*Family Child Care Homes: Creative Spaces for Children to Learn*  
Linda J. Armstrong  
Redleaf Press, 2011

*Inspiring Spaces for Young Children*  
Jessica DeViney, Sandra Duncan, Sara Harris, Mary Ann Rody, Lois Roesnberry  
Gryphon House, 2010

*Inquiry-Based Early Learning Environments: Creating, Supporting, and Collaborating*  
Susan Stacey  
Redleaf Press, 2018

*In the Spirit of the Studio: Learning from the Atelier of Reggio Emilia (Early Childhood Education Series) 2nd Edition*  
Lella Gandini, Lynn Hill, Louise Boyd Cadwell, Charles S. Schwall, Eds.  
Teachers College Press, 2015

*Loose Parts: Inspiring Play in Young Children*  
Redleaf Press, 2014

*Loose Parts 2: Inspiring Play with Infants and Toddlers*  
Redleaf Press, 2016

*Loose Parts 3: Inspiring Culturally Sustainable Environments*  
Lisa Daly, Miriam Beloglovsky

Wonder-Filled Early Childhood Environments  
An Early Childhood Investigations Webinar, September 26, 2018  
Derry Koralek, Jacky Howell, and Julia Luckenbill
Redleaf Press, 2018

Rethinking the Classroom Landscape: Creating Environments That Connect Young Children, Families, and Communities
Sandra Duncan, Jody Martin, and Rebecca Krath
Gryphon House, 2016

Seasons of Play: Natural Environments of Wonder
Rusty Keeler
Gryphon House, 2016

Thrifty Teacher's Guide to Creative Learning Centers
Shelley Nicholson and Jessica Martinez
Gryphon House, 2017

Through a Child’s Eyes
Sandra Duncan, Jody Marting, and Sally Haughery
Gryphon House, 2018

Treasure Basket Explorations: Heuristic Learning for Infants and Toddlers
Laura Wilhelm
Gryphon House, 2017

Universal Design for Learning in the Early Childhood Classroom: Teaching Children of All Languages, Cultures, and Abilities, Birth - 8 Years
Pamela Brillante and Karen Nemeth
Routledge, 2017

Articles
“Designing and Using a Developmentally Appropriate Block Area for Infants and Toddlers”
Julia Luckenbill and Lourdes Schallock
Young Children, March 2015

“Enhancing the Quality of Toddler Care: Supporting Curiosity, Persistence, and Learning in the Classroom”
Lauren E. Worley and Carla B. Goble
Young Children, September 2016

“Environments that Speak to Children”
Michelle Pratt
Exchange, September/October 2014

“Great Places to Be a Baby: Infants' and Toddlers' Learning Environments”

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Derry Koralek, Jacky Howell, and Julia Luckenbill
Jim Greenman
*Exchange, May/June 2004*

Janet Gonzalez-Mena
*Young Children, September 2013*

“*Inspired by Reggio Emilia: Emergent Curriculum in Relationship-Driven Learning Environments*”
Mary Ann Biermeier
*Young Children, November 2015*

“Let's Get Messy! Exploring Sensory and Art Activities with Infants and Toddlers”
Trudi Schwarz and Julia Luckenbill
*Young Children, September 2012*

“Making a Mud Kitchen for Mud Day”
Jan White and Menna Godfrey
*Exchange, May/June 2015*

“Making Your Environment 'The Third Teacher’”
Margie Carter
*Exchange, July/August 2007*

“Preschool: From Cinder Blocks to Building Blocks: Creating Beautiful Places in Challenging Spaces”
Takiema Bunche Smith and Louise Ammentorp
*Young Children, September 2013*

“Rethinking Early Childhood Environments to Enhance Learning”
Deb Curtis and Margie Carter
*Young Children, May 2005*

“Toddlers: Planning Environments and Materials That Respond to Young Children's Lively Minds”
Deb Curtis, Kasondra L. Brown, Lorrie Baird, and Anne Marie Coughlin
*Young Children, September 2013*

**Web-based Resources**

*Child Development Virtual Lab School*
https://www.virtuallabschool.org/about

Choose an age-specific track, then look for online courses on relevant topics including Learning Environments and Creative Expression.

*Community Playthings Resources*

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Find articles, videos, projects and activities organized by topic. Creating learning environments includes:

- Environment as the Third Teacher
- Homelike Environments
- Incorporating Loose Parts
- The Power of The Environment
- Classroom Design

**Facebook**

*Let the Babies Play* and *Let Children Play* are managed by Jennifer Kable. Both include useful photos and information about environments.

[https://www.facebook.com/letthebabiesplay/](https://www.facebook.com/letthebabiesplay/)
[https://www.facebook.com/letchildrenplay/](https://www.facebook.com/letchildrenplay/)

*Play Empowers* is a site dedicated to supporting children’s play. It serves as an online community of practice for early childhood educators in all settings.

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/643130139044874/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/643130139044874/)

*Roseville Nursery* is a program in the UK that offers wonderful examples of engaging environments.

[https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=roseville%20nursery](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=roseville%20nursery)

*Fairy Dust Teaching*  
Look for photos of some engaging environments for young children of different ages.  
[https://fairydustteaching.com/](https://fairydustteaching.com/)

*Office of Head Start, Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC)*  
At this site find resources in print and video formats on learning environments for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.