



Your early learning guide for infants, toddlers and three-year-olds

# Module 2: Infant Environment (0-18 months)

Environments that provide a variety of materials that infants can explore with all five senses (see, touch, smell, taste, hear) support brain development and help infants make sense of the world. They need to move around and explore so that they can begin to gain control of their bodies. A secure attachment with a responsive and warm caregiver allows the infant to feel safe and provides a secure base from which to explore.

<b>Language</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photographs of familiar objects</li> <li>• Board books</li> <li>• Picture books</li> <li>• Soft books</li> <li>• Wordless books</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher/Family made books with photos</li> <li>• Books in children’s home language</li> <li>• Puppets</li> </ul>
<b>Music and Movement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Push and pull items</li> <li>• Balls</li> <li>• Riding toys</li> <li>• Tunnel, hoops, balance beam, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climbing equipment</li> <li>• Instruments, shakers, chimes</li> <li>• Scarves for dancing and moving</li> <li>• Instrumental music - CD or MP3</li> </ul>
<b>Cozy Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small peaceful area</li> <li>• Pillow or stuffed toy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A few toys to play with by oneself</li> <li>• Mirror</li> </ul>
<b>Art and Sensory</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensory Table with non-food materials (i.e. water, sand, ice, shredded paper, leaves, etc)</li> <li>• Fill and pour materials (i.e. scoops, buckets, measuring cups, funnels, etc)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensory Bottles</li> <li>• Variety of scents</li> <li>• Variety of textures (i.e. brushes, sponges, tissue paper, etc)</li> <li>• Opportunities to use paint and clay</li> </ul>

***Sense of Self***

- Mirrors
- Reach and grab items
- Places to pull-up and cruise
- Props that can be rotated (i.e. doll items, handbags, menus)
- Culturally diverse dramatic play items (i.e. play food, bowls, wooden utensils, etc)
- Community helper costumes
- Real materials and containers (i.e. wooden spoons, small pots/pans, baskets, empty food boxes, juice cartons, etc.)

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***Manipulative and Construction***

- Sorting material of different shapes, sizes and color
  - Books that include counting and shapes
  - Assorted containers, boxes, buckets, stacking cups
  - Shape sorters
  - Teething items (wooden) and rattles
  - At least two types of blocks
  - Culturally diverse block props
  - Trucks, cars, animals, etc.
  - Items to dump and fill
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