**Developmentally Appropriate Materials, Equipment, Activities Policy/Procedure**

Developmentally appropriate and safe materials and equipment are available to all children.

1. Materials and equipment that promote gender, ethnic, age, and differing ability attributes are selected and used.  
2. Materials and equipment reflect diversity that exists in communities and avoids stereotyping.  
3. Materials are selected to emphasize concrete, experiential learning and to achieve the following goals:  
   - Foster positive self-concept  
   - Develop social skills  
   - Encourage children to think, reason, question, and experiment  
   - Encourage language development  
   - Enhance physical development and skills  
   - Encourage and demonstrate sound health, safety, and nutritional practices  
   - Encourage creative expression and appreciation of the arts  
   - Respect cultural diversity  
   - Respect for differing abilities  
4. Staff provide materials and time for children to select from among several planned activities or their own activities during the day. Staff respects the child's right to choose not to participate at times.  
5. Inventory materials/equipment using computer Inventory Program.  
6. Contact appropriate manager for additional and/or replacement items.  
7. Ensure that there are sufficient materials and equipment to meet the cultural and developmental needs of the population served, including children with disabilities.  
8. Materials must be accessible, attractive, and inviting, and be designed to provide a variety of learning experiences.  
9. Materials should be safe, durable, and in good condition.  
10. Store materials and equipment in a safe, orderly fashion when not in use.

*See Securing and Maintaining the Physical Environment Policy*

This policy complies with head Start Performance Standard 45CFR section 1304.21, 1304.53  
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