What is the Learning Environment?

The learning environment is truly <u>everything</u> that impacts each child each day. Really? Yes! It includes things like the materials that are available to the children. It also includes your attitude toward each child...positive & negative. The learning environment also encompasses things like how well you engage children in conversations and the daily routines you have in place. As stated above, the learning environment truly does include everything!

So...how can you enhance the learning environment and ensure that it is a positive one for all children? At Gee Whiz, we believe that there are many, many things you can do on a daily basis to ensure that the learning environment in your program is of the highest quality. Most of these things you are probably already doing but it never hurts to review!

This guide is designed to help you recognize the many different aspects of the learning environment and how you can work to enhance each in a simple, and easy, way. Reading through this guide should also help you prepare for your environmental rating assessment in a way that is meaningful to you, the children you serve and even their parents/ caregivers. Please take time to read through this guide periodically to refresh your memory. After all, we know how many different hats you all wear each day and this is our way of providing you with a helping hand.

