

## **Guidelines for Organizing Space and Materials: A Summary**

### **Build order and flexibility into the learning environment with:**

- Care and play areas that are distinct
- Places for different group sizes
- Spaces for active play and for quiet play
- Movable furniture, equipment and storage
- Easy access to outdoor play space

### **Provide comfort and safety for children and adults with:**

- Clean, inviting, calming floors, walls and shelves
- Soft places (pillows, couches, easy chairs, mats)
- Soft and natural lighting
- Purposeful sound
- Child-sized equipment and furnishings
- Adult-sized furniture and adult-accessible storage
- Child-sized and accessible cubbies and storage
- Welcoming entrance, greeting area
- Reminders of home, culturally responsive materials and space
- Space for children's creations

### **Support for children's sensory-motor learning with:**

- Materials that appeal to all senses, including things to smell, see, hear, touch, taste
- Open-ended materials, including found/natural as well as commercial
- Many-textured environment
- Interesting vistas
- Space and materials for children's movement
- Variety in scale and multiple physical levels
- Places to accommodate different activity levels (active to stationary)