SUGGESTED EXERCISES

# Observing free play in the morning



**Video:** [Free play in the morning](http://cpe-pn.ccdmd.qc.ca/fiche/jeu-libre-le-matin)

## Objectives

* Creating a safe environment in an educational childcare centre.
* Promoting children’s holistic development.
* Planning democratic educational interventions.
* Organizing the educational environment.
* Assessing educational quality.

## Activity details

Approximate duration: 3 hrs

STEP 1

1. Watch the video clip as a group or individually.

STEP 2

1. Find concrete ways to ensure that the materials made available to children during free play in educational childcare centres (ECCs) meet the following criteria:
* They are safe;
* They reflect the diverse family and cultural realities;
* They promote non-stereotyped actions and values;
* They come in various formats, e.g., recycled, commercial, real-size, handmade;
* They support all the spheres of development;
* The stimulate the children’s senses.

STEP 3

1. In teams of two or three, use your answers to make a list of materials that are appropriate for welcoming a mixed-age group with quality activities in the morning.

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| **LIST OF MATERIALS FOR MORNING WELCOME ACTIVITIES IN A MIXED-AGE GROUP (FREE PLAY)** |
| **Safe materials** |
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| **Materials reflecting the diverse family and cultural realities**  |
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| **LIST OF MATERIALS FOR MORNING WELCOME ACTIVITIES IN A MIXED-AGE GROUP (FREE PLAY)** |
| **Materials promoting non-stereotyped actions and values**  |
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| **Materials coming in various formats** |
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| **Materials supporting all the spheres of development** |
| Psychomotor development |
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| Cognitive development |
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| **LIST OF MATERIALS FOR MORNING WELCOME ACTIVITIES IN A MIXED-AGE GROUP (FREE PLAY)** |
| **Materials supporting all the spheres of development** |
| Language development |
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| Socio-affective development |
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| Creative development |
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| Sexual development |
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| **LIST OF MATERIALS FOR MORNING WELCOME ACTIVITIES IN A MIXED-AGE GROUP (FREE PLAY)** |
| **Materials stimulating the children’s senses** |
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Source: <https://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/publication/Documents/SF_echelle_observation_installation.pdf>

STEP 4

1. Share your answers with the group and discuss the layout and materials in ECCs.

STEP 5

1. Watch the video clip for a second time as a group or individually.

STEP 6

1. As a group, restart the discussion by asking the following questions:
* What do you think of the educator’s attitude when she asks the children to put away their toys and games? Why?
[Listen carefully, at the 2:00 mark, when she says: “OK. On ramasse!”.]
* How would you ensure that children experience smooth transitions?

## Additional suggested exercises

* Observe the children’s motor development, particularly their fine motor skills, and explain their different motor development stages using objective observations.
* Draft an informational document for parents on the benefits of free play and mixed-age groups.