

## SUGGESTED EXERCISES

# Observing free play in the morning



**Video:** Free play in the morning

## 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

1.1 Watch the video clip as a group or individually.

## STEP 2

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;
- They stimulate the children's senses.

## STEP 3

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.

### 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](https://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/publication/Documents/SF_echelle_observation_installation.pdf)

#### STEP 4

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

#### STEP 5

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

#### STEP 6

**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.

