

## **Module 5: Curriculum and Learning Environments**

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Handout 2

### **Will It Help or Will It Hurt?**

#### Scenario #1

The pre-kindergarten room has 20 children, a lead teacher, and a teacher assistant. Some children are playing quietly, while others race around playing superheroes, using the brooms from the housekeeping area as guns. A demolished block building is in the middle of the floor. Other children are enthusiastically looking at the bird nest that one child brought in this morning, and finding books about birds from the book corner. A snack of vanilla pudding with bananas was delivered an hour ago from the kitchen and is sitting on the counter next to the bird nest, waiting to be served. Pictures are hung at the children's eye level. A brightly decorated bulletin board displays their art work and color pictures from an animal ABC book.

#### Scenario #2

The toddler room has 14 children, a lead teacher, and one part time assistant who works four hours a day. During most days, the children spend 20 minutes outside, but if it is raining, or warm, the teacher prefers to extend play time and does not take the children outdoors. The children will nap if they are in the mood after they have had a mid-afternoon snack. In the morning upon arrival, the assistant makes certain to have loud reggae music playing to wake them up. Some days, story time will last 30 minutes and other days the teacher forgets to read to the children after waking up.

#### Scenario #3

The infant room at the center has 6 children with two lead teachers. When you arrive to observe, two of the infants are in swings, one is propped up in an infant chair with a propped bottle. The two infants are rolling on the ground, sucking on toys and passing them back and forth between each other. One teacher is changing a diaper and the other is busy making a bottle for the crying child in one of the swings to stick in the microwave.

#### Scenario #4

The preschool room at your child's program has 20 children enrolled with two teachers and an assistant who help at meal time. Children are coming in from outside play activities 10 at a time and are taking off jackets to wash their hands at the sink. After washing, they pick up a plate, spoon and fork asking what is for lunch. They sit at the tables in groups of 6 or 7 with a teacher and pass the food around family style. While eating, the teachers talk to the children about what they are eating and how it nourishes their bodies.

#### Scenario #5

At Happy Bees Family Child Care Center, Michelle has 6 children enrolled ages 6 months through 4 years old. Michelle has separated part of the space in her large classroom to accommodate the two infants in her care by using a large portable baby gate that she can clearly see over and through. While she is holding an infant, she enjoys reading a book to 3 year old Aidan who is sitting in her lap just inside the baby gate.