



**Teacher
Pass
Along**

Infant & Toddler Rooms: Tips for Arranging Your Space!

- Cribs are to be spaced (see your state regulations for specific requirements), and should not be touching or be too close, for health and safety reasons.
- There should be a “Play Area” away from where the cribs are. This will prevent playing babies from grabbing or shaking cribs and waking sleeping infants. The “Play Area” should have ample space for mobile infants to crawl, move around, and safely explore.
- Safety is always first and foremost! Make sure that any piece of furniture or equipment that is freestanding is durable and sturdy enough for a child to pull himself up on. Make sure that the classroom is completely “childproofed,” and anything within possible reach is safe for infants and toddlers. Having a “childproofed” room should also eliminate the need for many “no’s.”



- All areas of the room should be visible at all times. Mirrors can be used to see “blind spots.”
 - Strategically put the cribs of light sleepers in areas in which there is the least amount of traffic or stimulation.
 - The diaper-changing table should face the classroom so that the children are visible at all times.
 - Have a place for parents to place diaper bags. Often there are things unknowingly left in diaper bags (Infant Tylenol, Ambesol, etc.) that a curious toddler could get into if within reach.
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- Be mindful of traffic patterns. You will not want people continually walking through the sleep area, or stepping over mobile infants crawling in the play area, to get to the cubbies.
 - Keep things organized, labeled and in some kind of logical arrangement and order based on use.
 - Make sure that your environment offers many diverse opportunities to explore different textures and tactile experiences. Infants and toddlers also need opportunities to climb and challenge and develop their gross motor skills.

