

## Intentionally Designed Environments

<https://theeducationhub.org.nz/intentionally-designed-environments/>

### Teacher ideas

- Muted colors and natural materials.
- Clearly defined areas with materials at eye level, no clutter.
- Laminate pictures /words on the shelves to match materials in buckets to support independence and cooperation.
- All children can safely access materials, depending on the age and their needs.
- Children have input on modifying play areas.
- Have routines but add novelty like dilute food coloring in the water table.
- Have visual and text labels for jobs and our schedule.
- Children choose artwork to post on walls and dictate captions if they like.
- A calm corner with pillows, fidget toys, books, and visual emotions chart accessible at any time or a pop-up tent.
- Flexibility with materials. If children wanted to bring a few blocks into the dramatic play area, talk with them to make sure are all onboard (in both centers).
- Be open to asking “why” we have materials in the classroom and on the walls.
- Consider sound levels in an environment and the sensory needs of each child.
- Consider lighting in the environment. Do you have access to natural light? If not, is lighting at the right level for activities and needs of children throughout the day?