

Adapting and Accommodating

Children develop at different paces and because of this, we as Early Childhood Educators need to find ways to adapt and accommodate the tools that children will be using in order to support their development and ensure their well-being in the programs that they attend.

The following information will provide some strategies for adapting and accommodating materials in early learning environments.

Stabilizing:

- Securing materials to tables or other hard surfaces
- Binders used as easels to secure paper for writing, drawing, and colouring
- Trays with lips/rims/edges to hold small items
- Rubber placemats under toys to keep items from moving
- Velcro on blocks to secure them for building.

Enlarging:

- Making small items bigger or adding materials to make toys more accessible to pick up, hold, and use
- Glue knobs or small wooden blocks onto regular puzzle pieces to make them easier to grasp
- Make handles on pencils, pencil crayons, paint brushes, or markers larger by adding plasticene, pencil grips, or hair rollers
- Extend strings for beads by wrapping tape around the tip of the string
- Use pipe cleaners and larger beads to make them easier to use.

Enhancing:

- Enabling certain parts of a toy to be noticed more easily through sight and touch
- Sandpaper on buttons to activate a toy/item
- Adding colour to sensory items such as water play
- Incorporating a variety of textures to sensory items.

Simplifying:

- Making materials more achievable and meaningful to children
- Reduce the number of steps to complete something
- Remove the number of pieces required to complete the activity
- Replace smaller items with bigger items making the item easier to use.