

ENVIRONMENTS: Consider the Walls:

(Young Children on the web May 2004)

- Classroom environments are public statements about the educational values of the teacher.

- The challenge for early childhood educators is to think beyond decorating to consider how the walls can be used effectively as part of an educational environment.

- Teachers need to step back and critically examine the quality and quantity of commercial materials on their walls to determine whether they actually contribute to children's learning or whether they ultimately silence children. We should respect children as active, curious learners with ideas to communicate.



- Questions to ponder: What is the image of the learner conveyed by the materials displayed? Are the children's words, work and ideas honored by the wall displays without borders or bright colors that distract from their work? Do the posters or commercially made materials invite participation and active involvement or passive reception of information?



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