



# Children First: Does Your Program Reflect It?



# **Children First: Does Your Program Reflect It?**

Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)  
Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)  
Grants Management Conference

Tuesday, September 17, 2013  
Marriott Wardman Park

**Debra L. Byrd, Presenter**

# Objectives/Outcomes:



- To create a dialogue about the value of early learning settings.
- To assess if you are meeting the needs of children in the types of equipment & materials you select, and the play experiences your staff promote.
- To determine your plans for raising the quality of care and learning for children within your program environment.

# Did You Know:



- Children spend an average of \_\_\_\_ hours per day in child care.
- Children and families need to find “comfort, security, and \_\_\_\_\_” during this time.
- Children often spend more time in child care than at \_\_\_\_\_.
- Your \_\_\_\_\_ are a place for children to play-discover-and learn.

- If you care about children, then you must care about the places where they spend time.



You are being provided with an article entitled, "What Kind of Place for Child Care in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?" By Jim Greenman, Author of *Caring Spaces*, *Learning Places*; *Places for Childhoods*, and other publications.



# **Watch the film!**

## **Listen to the narration!**

- 1) Observe children in action and the adults involved in their lives.
- 2) Listen to the statistics about children.
- 3) Ask yourself if your program is a place that provides a sense of happiness & joy.

[http://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/videos/  
children-come-first](http://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/videos/children-come-first)

# Group Think!



- The film listed four (4) elements important to children:
  - Movement
  - Comfort
  - Competence
  - Control
- **Think about how you, your staff and your children engage with their environment on these measures.**

- What is in your plans this year to improve upon these elements in your program?
- What would you change?



- The film features a variety of early education programs. Every program is both different and the same as it plans children's play experiences for learning and for life.



## CHILDREN COME FIRST

a 13 minute video about children in care is for anyone who cares about children. Order the free film from Community Playthings at: [www.communityplaythings.com](http://www.communityplaythings.com) or call 1-800-777-4244.

Community Playthings is a company founded in a religious and social community. CP holds beliefs, values, and attitudes...just like each of us in our professional and personal lives. Its equipment and materials are the behaviors that show what they value...children.

- Use the 12 qualities for all environments for children, as well as the information learned in the Children Come First video to make an operational plan.
- Work with your staff to convert them into concrete examples.
- Work with your Board of Directors, Owners/Administrators, and Advisory groups to further identify resources and funding.
- Turn it into a strategic plan!





“When children feel capable, they are capable.”

“Learning happens through relationships.”

“Child care is a loving and nurturing field, but it is also a business. You can do both successfully without compromising either.”

“Focus on the goal, not the struggle.”

“Effective leadership is putting first things first.  
Effective management is discipline in carrying it out.”