

Strong Beginnings

Quick Start Guide Section 9: Classroom Quality

Teaching teams implement a comprehensive, child-focused, constructivist curriculum model for all enrolled children.

- Nothing is new or different.

All classrooms create a welcoming environment that respects diversity, supports children’s ties to their family and community and promotes second language acquisition and preservation of children’s home language and culture.

- While activities related to religious holidays are often included in early childhood programs, whether and how to include them requires thoughtful decision making.

The Key Elements of High-Quality Early Childhood Learning are the same.

- There must be 45 minutes of uninterrupted choice time in Strong Beginnings classrooms and an 80-minute rest time in school-day Strong Beginnings classrooms.
- Three-year-old children generally need longer transition times and more time for bathroom use, eating etc. as their self-help skills are just beginning to develop.
- Children who are using diapers/pullups or just learning to use the toilet must be admitted to the program and programs must have a policy on working cooperatively with families on learning to use the toilet.
- Bathrooms must be in or immediately adjacent to classrooms and have diaper/pullup changing facilities available.
- Diapers/pullups, wipes and other necessary supplies must be provided free of charge to Strong Beginnings families.
- Additional consideration for children in Strong Beginnings are delineated in Section 9 of the Strong Beginnings Pilot Implementation Manual.
- Looping, when circumstances allow, and the assignment of primary caregivers to each child are recommended in Strong Beginnings.