



Toddler: Regard for Child Perspectives

Title: Supporting Independence after Breakfast

In this classroom of toddlers, the teacher follows the children's lead to clean up the spilled milk.

Child Focus

- The teacher follows Riley's lead by allowing her to clean up the spilled milk after breakfast.
- When another child approaches the teacher and wants to assist in the cleanup, the teacher says, "You want to clean up? Let's let Ally-Kate clean up, too."

Flexibility

- The teacher demonstrates flexibility by allowing multiple children to assist in the cleanup process at their own pace.
- The teacher asks another child if she wants to help clean up and when the child says, "No," the teacher tells her, "That's fine."
- The teacher allows children to move across activities and throughout the classroom.

Support of Independence

- The teacher focuses on developing children's independence, not perfection. For example, multiple children use several paper towels to clean up the spilled milk. The teacher does not see this as a problem and cleans alongside the children. The children are able to take an active role as helpers in the classroom.

The teacher effectively follows the children's lead, allowing them to move in and out of activities and demonstrates "going with the flow" by allowing children to complete activities at their own pace.