


**THE ENVIRONMENT FOR BABIES**



Montessori Children's Foundation  
Learning Series

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**THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

- Space
- Furniture and Material

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

- Relationships between people
- Emotional environment



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**CHOOSING A SPACE**

Entrance space  
Learning Space

- Outdoor
- Indoor
  - Separated into two developmental stages



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<b>ENTRANCE SPACE</b>	
A place for prams	
A place for <b>parent's</b> shoes and personal things	
A place for <b>baby's</b> shoes and personal things	
A sign in form	

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<b>OUTDOOR SPACE</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some time in nature</li><li>• Different places for crawling and pulling up</li><li>• Sensory rich environment</li></ul>	

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<b>OUTDOOR SPACE</b>	<b>EXAMPLES</b>
	

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<h2>INDOOR LEARNING SPACE</h2>	
<p>FOUR AREAS IN THE LEARNING SPACE</p>	
<p>Sleeping Nappy Changing Feeding/ Eating Working</p>	

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<h2>SLEEPING SPACE</h2>	
<p>Separate mats for sleeping Away from other moving babies Clean plain sheet</p>	

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<h2>NAPPY CHANGING</h2>	
<p>Change table Closed bin All things close at hand Access to water Cleaning spray Low drawers for storage</p>	

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**FEEDING & EATING**



A comfortable chair for breastfeeding or bottle feeding



A communal table

Chairs with arms

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**WORKING AREA PHASE ONE**

NEWBORN TO CRAWLING  
(APPROX 7 MONTHS)



Mat

Mirror

Shelf

Selection of mobiles

Selection of rattles & toys

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**WORKING AREA PHASE TWO**

CRAWLING TO WALKING  
(APPROX 7 MONTHS TO WALKING)



A Bar

Heavy furniture

Stairs

Tracker

Selection of balls

Rolling Toys

Activities to extend their gross motor development

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<b>LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Label objects	
Use clear, precise language	
Tune in to your child's cues and follow their lead	
Stop and gaze into the baby's eyes.	
Model the 'Dance of Communication'	
Share action songs, lullabies, and poetry	
Read books	

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<b>THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>	
<b>Educators will:</b>	
Be emotionally available	
Slow down	
Be comfortable with crying	
Be able to communicate with parents, respectfully	
Be able to model clear, precise language	
Be present with the children	
Be a good observer	
Be able to model precise movements	
Be accepting	

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<p>“When you speak to a baby [...] he will look directly at your mouth. If little children are so thrilled to see a mouth moving, it is because they have already noticed this strange music that is the human voice. “</p> <p>- Maria Montessori, the 1946 London Lectures, p.61</p>
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TASKS

1. Draw a map of a babies environment and label it
2. Watch this video on Babies and answer the given questions



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