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## Profile of an ECCE Centre: Identification of Location and Infrastructure/Physical Facilities

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An ECCE centre should be a place for joyful learning for children between the ages of three to eight years. Young children strive to make sense of the world in which they live. They try to organize the visual images and concrete objects in their environment into meaningful systems. For this to happen, children need a safe environment where they are encouraged to explore their surroundings and get rewarded for exploring. They need an environment that is rich in sensory stimulations and which provides opportunities for using their imagination and creativity.



### Identification of Location

**Let us study in detail about these essential features of an ECCE Centre:****Easy Accessibility**

Location is an important factor impacting the parent's choice of an ECCE centre/pre-school. Young children are usually dropped to the centre by their mother or older siblings. Parents usually choose schools closest to their homes or working place so that it is convenient to drop and pick up the child every day. An ECCE centre is best located adjacent to or co-located with schools or adjacent to parks or centrally located in the community.

**Cleanliness, Hygiene and Pollution Free Environment**

- Hygiene and cleanliness are fundamental issues when caring for young children. Young children are more vulnerable to infections. Dirty rooms and compounds can cause skin diseases and worm infections. The floor and toilets should be cleaned with disinfectant. The building should be made of standard quality construction methods and materials. This will help promote good indoor air quality.
- Noise pollution can cause lack of concentration and headaches among children.
- Heat, light and proper ventilation all have an impact on the development of children's health. To ensure the provision of adequate light and ventilation, an ECCE center needs well-planned ventilation.

**Safety and Security**

Children are less prepared in responding to environmental hazards that may exist around them. Younger children are susceptible to injuries related to motor vehicles, fires and burns, drowning, falls and poisoning. In a safe environment, children can move about freely and explore without much supervision.

**A safe environment includes:**

- Developmentally appropriate equipment made up of non-toxic materials
- Non-slippery floors
- Stable shelves, objects and fixtures with rounded corners
- Walls rounded at the corners
- Safely located electricity fittings and plug points

**Barrier-Free Environment for Children with Disabilities**

An ECCE centre of quality welcomes children with disabilities. To make the centre accessible for all children, the location of the centre and its infrastructure should be disable friendly. Poor infrastructure, non-availability of appropriate furniture for children with disabilities, non-availability and poor quality of special aids and appliances are major challenges in ensuring an inclusive ECCE centre.