

## What Does “Accessible” Mean?

During center time, children engage in child-initiated activities with intentional learning materials. Those learning center materials must be accessible for all children for **at least 60 minutes a day**. If a group of children participates in a teacher-directed small group activity during this time, it will **not** be counted as “accessible” until the last child in the group is released from the small group table.

“**Accessible**” means that children can reach and use the materials, furnishings, and equipment. There should be **no barriers** to children’s access.

### **Examples of barriers:**

- A piece of furniture blocks an area, so it is difficult to get to the materials
- Containers with difficult-to-open lids
- Telling children that a center is “closed”
- Teaching children not to take certain materials from shelves
- Assigning children to an area so that they cannot move freely to choose somewhere else to play or something else to play with

**Resource:** *ECERS-3 page 10*