

## Questions to Guide Selection: Ensuring Developmentally Appropriate Materials

*Do these materials reflect and respect the racial, ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and family diversity of the program and of the broader community?*

- How do you think children relate to this toy?
- How do you think families will respond to these materials?
- How can children and families see themselves in these materials?
- How do the books, toys and materials in your room reflect and respect the different ways families in our program live? Can children see their own family structure in a positive way (i.e., materials go beyond traditional mom, dad, and kids)?
- How will children who are learning English use this material?

*Do these materials reflect the children's current interests and help spark new interests?*

- Tell me more about this toy, book or material. How did you choose it? How do the children use it?
- How did you go about identifying the kids' interests?
- What are the children in your room or program interested in right now? How do you know?
- What learning standards tie into the children's interests?
- What have you tried that the kids loved? What have you tried that the kids disliked? How do they let you know they like or dislike materials or activities?

*Do these materials allow children to play in a variety of ways?*

- What kind of play do you see the kids doing with these materials?
- What behaviors are you seeing in the room or program? Do any of the toys seem to spark more violent play or cooperative play? Which ones and why?
- How long do children typically stick with these materials? Do they play for a long time or do they move on to something else quickly?
- What messages do you think this toy sends about how to play with it?
- What roles can a child take on with this toy?
- How many different ways can these materials be used?
- How do families feel about this toy or material?

*Do these materials help us reach important learning goals for children?*

- What learning goals do you have in mind for these materials?
- Can these materials meet different learning goals? Which ones?
- How many different ways can these materials be used?
- How do children respond to these materials?
- What do you like or dislike about these materials? What would make them more useful to you?