

## **STRATEGIES**

*Materials and Equipment  
Start-Up Funding*

### **Child Engagement with Materials**

*Children need an environment that promotes their development. This means that settings where children spend time should have a variety of materials—books, puzzles, paints, dolls, climbing equipment—that supports development across all the domains—language, cognitive, physical, social and emotional. While standardized observation instruments are effective tools for assessing the effects of the environment on child care quality, reports from providers represent another useful and simpler option. This questionnaire is adapted from a survey that Alabama uses to evaluate Workshop on Wheels, an initiative that distributes materials and equipment. You can tailor it to the specific kinds of materials you distribute. It can also be used to evaluate the initiatives that provide support for start-up. For example, if a number of new toys are provided, you might also want to ask which toys the children played with most. To make it easier for providers to answer the first question, you may want to provide a specific list of materials in your own survey.*

# Child Engagement with Materials

1. What kind of materials and equipment did the children use?

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2. How did you and the children use the materials and equipment?

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3. What areas of child development did the materials and equipment support?

- Socio-Emotional Development (sense of self-esteem, exhibit positive attitude, demonstrate cooperative, pro-social behavior)

Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Cognitive Development (learning and problem-solving skills, logical thinking skills, demonstrate skills in make-believe play, expand verbal communication skills, develop beginning reading skills, acquire beginning writing skills)

Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Physical Development (gross motor skills, fine motor skills)

Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. How often did the children in your care use and/or play with the materials and equipment?

- Every day
- Several times a week
- Rarely
- Never

5. Since you received the new materials/equipment what changes, if any, have you seen in the children's interaction with the materials/equipment?

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