

# Starting Small with Your Environment

You can create an inviting and successful child care environment and still retain elements of your home and personal life. Here we showcase a child care program that figured out how to balance their personal and professional needs.

By using a few simple pieces of furniture and key interactive materials, this small living room transforms into an area for children during the day. **In the evening, it is a place for the family to relax.**

Place some comfy pillows on the floor next to a basket of books or toys to add additional softness.

Wicker baskets hold supplies, but make for a homier feel when the children leave at the end of the day



This cozy nook is easy to put away when more space is needed for family time

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This simple entry way has all the elements needed for a business, and keeps the home's look and feel.



Key information for families at the entrance

Hooks for coats

Simple storage for personal belongings



**Have a small space?**

Go vertical with interactive materials. Wall manipulatives are perfect for San Francisco homes where space is limited.

Consider adding hanging plants to create a natural mobile effect for infants and add a calming vibe to your home



To start, add a few play and learning materials that can be used with multiple ages

**Child care furniture can be blended with your adult home décor,** like this adult chair mixed with a children's play area



Have play kits that can come out during the day and are easy to put away at night

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Purchase just one or two interactive play structures for small backyards.

A chalk board tells parents what the menu is for the week

You can keep your adult dining room feel, and add a few elements for children



Clip-on child seats can be added during the day for meal-times



Transform a small office space or guest room into a napping or diapering area

**You don't need to go out and purchase expensive play materials, just use what you already have!**

For example, old pots and pans, clothes and scarves, and magazines are great for a dramatic play area. Try your local thrift store for additional materials.

Toilet paper rolls, plastic containers, boxes, and egg cartons can be used as blocks, art supplies, or activity walls.

You can invest in more materials as you grow and expand your business with time.