

## **Work Time Ground Rules**

- Children are free to work with any material displayed in the environment as long as they use it respectfully. They may not harm the material, themselves, or others. They may not use the material in any way that disturbs the activities of others. They may not take home any material or part of any activity.
- The children may work on either a rug or a table; whichever is suitable to the work they have chosen. Children do not work at or on display shelves, since their presence there would obstruct the other children's access to materials.
- The children use the material as modeled by the teacher. After working, they restore the material to its original condition so that it is ready for the next person, and then return it to its appropriate location after the exercise.
- The children are responsible for cleaning up any spills (after demonstration by the teacher).
- When done working on a rug, children put their rugs away after rolling them neatly.
- The children push their chairs under the table and put the work away if they have been working at a table.
- No child may touch the work of another or interfere with another's activity. This provides security for the child involved in an exercise to continue it to completion. However, another child may ask to join the activity but has to respect the answer. A child's right to initiate, complete, or repeat an exercise is protected by this ground rule. If the child must leave her exercise temporarily, she is confident that her work will remain as she left it.
- Children are not coerced into joining group activities. It is the child's right to stand as an observer of any group activity without becoming a participant. Children are not permitted to interfere or disrupt an activity in which they have chosen not to participate.
- A child is not obligated, or even encouraged, to share with another child, an exercise that he has chosen to work on by himself. Generosity develops as a child matures from within. He will become more generous as he gains self-security. If materials are adequate and ground rules are effective, sharing will come naturally in cases where sharing is appropriate or necessary.