

## Ensuring High-Quality Early Learning: A Coherent Vision Matters

Christine Shrader and Judy Jablon

As a result of this session, you will gain:

1. An understanding of why coherence matters for high-quality early learning
2. An understanding of the structure and organization of the Coherent Path to Quality
3. Information you can use to apply the three lanes and 11 simple rules in your early learning setting

### Why High Quality Early Learning Matters!

During the first \_\_\_\_\_ years, a child’s brain is at its most flexible, making this a critical period for learning and growth.

### The What and Why of Coherence: Equity and Excellence for All Children

Why is it vital to have a coherent and shared vision of high-quality early childhood programs?

### The Coherent Path to Quality Supports Equity

At Leading for Children, we define three elements of high-quality early learning programs. Each element applies to practices for children and for adults (educators, caregivers, parents, staff, and community members). To help articulate elements of quality, we offer 11 simple rules within each dimension.



### Dimension #1: Relationships and Interactions

Take a moment to think about how you feel when you are with someone you care about.

How adults relate to and interact with each other offers young children the most powerful model for how to be with others. Four simple rules guide our decisions about relationships and interactions.

<b>Honest</b>	<b>Trusting</b>
<b>Open</b>	<b>Two-way</b>

## Dimension #2: Emotional and Physical Environment

Think about how you feel when you enter a room.

The emotional and physical environment matters because it affects how we feel, how we relate to others, and our ability to focus on tasks. Four simple rules guide our decisions about the emotional and physical environment.

<b>Calm</b>	<b>Safe</b>
<b>Organized</b>	<b>Respectful</b>

## Dimension #3: Learning Experiences

Take a moment to think about a time you learned something new.

High-quality learning experiences invite learners — adults and children — to engage in ways that engage thinking and activate curiosity. Three simple rules guide our decisions about learning experiences.

<b>Meaningful</b>	<b>Exploratory</b>
<b>Actionable</b>	

### Call to Action

What ideas do you plan to apply when you return to your setting?

What are the first steps you'll take?

What are you curious about? What might you do to address your curiosity?