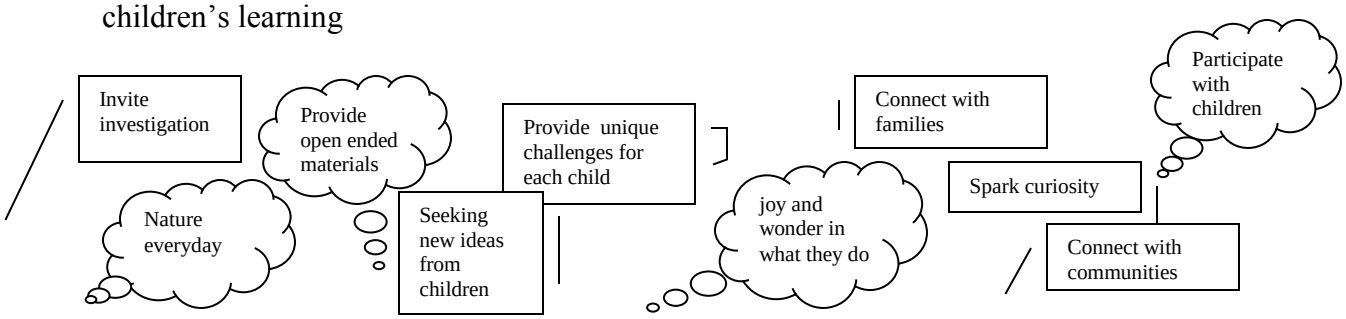
City of Stratford
Children's Resource Consultant Program

Tip of the Month

The Environment

The environment is the context in which learning takes place, "the third teacher" and is valued for its power to organize, promote relationships and educate.

- Children thrive in indoor and outdoor spaces that invite them to investigate, imagine, think, create, solve problems and make meaning from their experiences
- When the schedule allows for long periods of uninterrupted play, with few transitions, children are calmer and more engaged
- When the environment supports children's growing autonomy and independence, challenging behaviours are reduced and educators can focus more on observing, interacting and extending children's learning



Taken from: How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years