

Preschool Materials for Exploration Stations

Select materials for exploration stations by evaluating them for safety and suitability based on children's ages and abilities. Constant supervision is required for safety. Consider diversity (cultures, ages, races, and abilities) in materials. This is not a list of required materials, but a starting point for building stations that offer children a variety of engaging play opportunities.

Display numbers and letters in various stations to help children build connections to counting and reading.

BOOKS	MUSIC/DANCE	MATH	BLOCKS
<p>A variety of fiction and factual books that introduce children to a variety of topics; books added according to themes</p>	<p>Musical instruments, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bells • maracas • rhythm sticks • shakers • tambourines 	<p>A variety of math materials that allow children to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • measure or compare sizes of objects • count or compare quantities • interact with shapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit blocks • large hollow blocks • block accessories such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - animals - people - vehicles
ART	FINE MOTOR	SCIENCE	DRAMATIC PLAY
<p>A variety of art materials, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paper • drawing materials • paints • collage materials • art tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - scissors - tape - glue - dough tools • 3D art materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clay - playdough 	<p>A variety of fine motor materials, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • puzzles • manipulatives with gears • peg boards • links • lacing cards • art materials • building materials that interlock or connect 	<p>A variety of nature and science materials, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • natural objects • sand/water play with toys • science books or game • plants or animals to observe • science tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - binoculars - color viewers - magnifiers 	<p>A variety of dramatic play materials, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dolls • furniture • play foods • play dishes or pots and pans • toy phones • dress-up clothes

BASIC SUPPLIES TO KEEP ON HAND

- bags/boxes/baskets
- balls/beanbags
- camera
- cardboard sheets/tubes
- clipboards
- containers/buckets
- cotton balls/swabs
- craft sticks
- cups/bowls/dishes
- digital device
- felt/craft foam
- glues/tapes
- index cards/sticky notes
- kitchen utensils/bakeware
- mirrors
- newspapers/magazines
- office supplies (e.g., paper clips, stapler, paper punchers)
- parachute/blankets/sheet
- printer
- spray/squeeze bottles
- stamp pads
- stencils/rulers
- stickers
- yarn/string/ribbon