

BLOCK CENTER

SOCIAL INTERACTION

- Establish a routine of passing blocks/toys then pause during routine
- Roll items back and forth in a social game
- Play a game while putting toys away – covering the opening of a container and quickly lifting your hands to “gobble” a toy

REQUESTING

- Use containers that are difficult to open for some preferred materials
- Hold or place items at a distance during choice making
- Point to items out of your reach to request

JOINT ATTENTION

- Make a habit of showing or pointing to child’s constructions
- Hide out of place items in containers on occasion to see if children will show items
- Do a scavenger hunt for various items in the block center

EXPLORATORY PLAY

- Model and encourage multiple actions with the same object
- Include cause & effect toys in the center
- Offer items with a variety of textures

RELATIONAL PLAY

- Play sorting games
- Stack blocks or similar toys
- Model and encourage taking out and putting in with toys and their containers

FUNCTIONAL PLAY

- Add dolls and action figures to toy sets
- Use vehicles on set pathways, roads, etc.
- Incorporate pretend tool sets into the center

SYMBOLIC PLAY

- Use toys to represent food, household items, etc.
- Pretend toys are hot, cold, stinky, sticky, etc.
- Have 2-3 step scripts with items the children have constructed (e.g., get in car, drive, get gas)

Center-Specific Material Suggestions

| CENTER | SUGGESTED MATERIALS | |
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| Art Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various types and sizes of paper (white, construction, newsprint, easel) • Crayons; markers; colored pencils • Easel with various brushes • Recycled/re-used items (bubble wrap, bottles, packing peanuts, magazines) • Watercolors, finger paint, tempera | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scissors; glue/glue sticks • Various collage materials • Clay (modeling, natural) • Ink/Bingo Dotters • Beads , string, yarn, ribbon • Play-dough, Gak™ • Dry erase boards with markers |
| Block Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blocks various shapes, sizes, & colors • Legos®/Duplos®, Lincoln Logs®, Bristle Blocks, Tinker Toys® • Action figures/dolls (people/families) • Road map rug or mat • Toy house, farm, garage, pirate ship • Mailing tubes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pictures of places in community • Pictures of famous places • Dress up clothes (construction, fire fighter, train conductor) • Toy animals (farm, dinosaur, zoo) • Trains/connecting tracks • Vehicles/transportation toys |
| Circle Time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large dry erase board • Easel with large chart paper • Felt Board Activities • Pockets charts, sentence strips • Visual schedules | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musical instruments • Song charts (with pictures) • Low chairs; labeled seats • Weather chart • Calendar |
| Dramatic Play | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitchen toys (pots, dishes, utensils) • Grooming toys (brushes, comb, dryer) • Household accessories (vacuum, iron) • Toy food/grocery store items • Dolls with extra doll clothing, crib • Puppets and stuffed animals • Toy cameras | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large mirror (shatter proof) • Doll house with dolls & furniture • Dress-up clothes and accessories • Cash register, shopping carts • Themed kits (doctor, vet, salon, restaurant, post office) • Telephones & phone book |
| Gross Motor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bean bags • Balls (various types/sizes) • Trikes, riding toys, wagons • Stilts, swings • Hula hoops • Balance beam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parachute • Scarves, ribbon streamers • Hopscotch, hop-along balls • Tents, tunnels • Tumbling mats, trampoline • Basketball hoop |
| Math/Manipulatives/ Puzzles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counting and matching games • Puzzles (form board, floor puzzles) • Magnetic shapes/numbers with board • Sorting/counting items & trays • Geoboards® with rubber bands • Rulers/Tape measure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number line/number cards • Paper dolls, color forms, dice • Clocks, timers, calculators • Pattern blocks with cards • Unifix® cubes, nesting cups • Pattern and sequence games |
| Reading Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books (rotate regularly) & props • Puppets (hand, finger, stick) • Writing materials (clipboard, pencils) • Alphabet cards/chart • Magazines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Felt board stories • Word Wall • Letter and phonic games • Magnetic letters with board • Letter rubber stamps with ink pad |

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| Science Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural items (rocks, feathers, acorns) • Microscope, magnifying glasses • Prisms • Collection containers • Plants/seeds growing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science/nature books/magazines • Animals (aquarium, hamster) • Magnets • Picture cards • Balance scale |
| Sensory Table | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water (add soap or food coloring) • Sand, soil, rice, beans • Float and sink items • Sponges, strainers, sifters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cups, buckets, shovels • Boats, cars, trucks • Water wheels, funnels • Items to bury (animals, etc.) |
| Table Time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play-dough, Gak™ • Craft materials • Books and related toys/objects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry-erase boards and markers • Pipe cleaners, yarn, beads • Puzzles and mazes |