

DRAMATIC PLAY

SOCIAL INTERACTION

- Use fabric/blanket to engage in peek-a-boo
- Use a doll in tickle or “I’m gonna get you” game
- Establish familiar, engaging routines (e.g., spilling the milk and making a big deal out of it)

REQUESTING

- Place favorite toys out of reach in the center
- Supply dress-up clothing that requires help from adults
- Provide visual supports to encourage choice-making during play scripts

JOINT ATTENTION

- Hide novel or unexpected items
- Build responding to joint attention into play scripts (e.g., “Look, there’s a bird outside our house”)
- Prompt children to give or show interesting items to you or peers

EXPLORATORY PLAY

- Place items with motivating sensory qualities in the area
- Encourage multiple actions with the same item (e.g., roll, bang, and pat pretend apple; shake, pass, and spin salt shaker)

RELATIONAL PLAY

- Provide pots, pans, etc. with lids
- Offer containers with food items for putting in and taking out
- Sort toys (e.g., utensils, types of clothing)

FUNCTIONAL PLAY

- Place dolls, animals, puppets, etc. in the center
- Use varied play scripts: cleaning, cooking, doctor, salon, vet, picnic, farm, etc.
- Provide visual supports - self, others, dolls, etc.

SYMBOLIC PLAY

- Establish play scripts with multi-step sequences
- Replace miniatures (e.g., food, dishes, cleaning items) with blocks or more abstract toys
- Provide visual supports to promote role play

Center-Specific Material Suggestions

CENTER	SUGGESTED MATERIALS	
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

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