

MATH/MANIPULATIVES/PUZZLES

SOCIAL INTERACTION

- Create a game/routine out of clean up (e.g., use your hands to monster munch items into a box) and pause once routine is established
- Pass/roll manipulatives back and forth
- Include other people or materials in established routines to model/encourage expansion

REQUESTING

- Offer choices of color, shape, size, etc.
- Occasionally use containers that are difficult to open
- Put preferred items (or preferred colors of items) out of reach

JOINT ATTENTION

- Set up a routine of sharing creations with adults and peers by showing, pointing, etc.
- Point to items around the room that are the same color or shape as manipulatives
- Place novel/unexpected items in containers within the center

EXPLORATORY PLAY

- Provide items such as a small ball, puzzle piece, or other manipulative to encourage exploration
- Encourage multiple actions with the same object (e.g., shake, bang, and roll ball; touch, pick up, and drop puzzle pieces)

RELATIONAL PLAY

- Give containers for sorting different items
- Give small blocks to put together and take apart
- Offer a range of puzzles to put together and take apart

FUNCTIONAL PLAY

- Place dolls, animals, puppets, etc. in the center
- Incorporate tool set into center
- Use items such as insects and toy food to sting/feed dolls/other people

SYMBOLIC PLAY

- Pretend puzzle pieces (e.g., animals, food) are real and make them move or feed them to others
- Bring play dishes into center and pretend small blocks and other objects are food
- Give pretend qualities to objects (e.g., hot, cold)

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