

READING CENTER

SOCIAL INTERACTION

- Pause at an exciting part of a story and wait for signals of anticipation, initiation, or expansion
- Incorporate back-and-forth actions or phrases into story
- Encourage expansion of stories, acting them out and adding new actions or characters

REQUESTING

- Put preferred book out of reach
- Point to a nearby book as a request
- Use props and picture symbols to encourage choice-making during stories

JOINT ATTENTION

- Use “I Spy” books to encourage pointing to share interest in the pictures
- Show storybook pictures by holding up or pointing to share interest
- Add novel books to center to encourage showing and pointing

EXPLORATORY PLAY

- Incorporate books with different textures, shapes, and colors to encourage exploration
- Encourage multiple actions with books and props (e.g., pick up, turn, touch textured page)

RELATIONAL PLAY

- Incorporate props that can be taken apart or put together (e.g., using Velcro)
- Sort books by color or size
- Use books, or make props, that include putting in or taking out (e.g., bee in nest; dog in house)

FUNCTIONAL PLAY

- Bring dolls or action figures into center to include as props in storytelling
- Encourage imitation of events in story using props (e.g., brushing hair; feeding peer or doll)

SYMBOLIC PLAY

- Use dolls/puppets as props to move as if alive
- Assign roles to act out during story and encourage children to make up new roles
- Use imaginary props during storytelling

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