

SCIENCE CENTER

SOCIAL INTERACTION

- Establish routines (e.g., blowing bubbles, trading picture cards) and display related items to encourage initiation
- Encourage expansion of games by having peers and related objects available
- Pass objects (e.g., rocks, leaves) back and forth

REQUESTING

- Place enticing objects in containers or on out-of-reach shelves to encourage requesting
- Offer choices of activities or objects using picture cards
- Keep needed materials for activity (e.g., shovel for planting seeds) and wait for request

JOINT ATTENTION

- Place novel items in center to encourage showing and pointing
- Sit in circle and encourage showing and giving of picture cards and exciting items (e.g., bugs, butterflies, bubbles)
- Go outdoors and point to real-life versions of items pictured in science books or picture cards

EXPLORATORY PLAY

- Incorporate objects with different textures, shapes, and colors to encourage exploration
- Encourage multiple actions with science-related objects (e.g., feel, bang, and roll rocks; touch, smell, and bend leaves)

RELATIONAL PLAY

- Take apart and put together magnets
- Provide containers for sorting objects based on color, shape, or size
- Provide pots of soil for putting seeds in

FUNCTIONAL PLAY

- Incorporate watering can for watering plants
- Provide animal food (e.g., bird seed) for feeding animal dolls (e.g., birds, bugs, snakes)
- Place doctor kit in center to treat dolls and peers for snake and bug bites

SYMBOLIC PLAY

- Encourage moving animal dolls as if alive
- Encourage using rocks as food to feed dolls
- Allow for role play (e.g., vet, zoo keeper, scientist), providing scripts as needed

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