

# Learning Center Materials Ideas and Suggestions

## Dramatic Play:

- Stove, Refrigerator, child size table and chairs (table cloth), doll beds, high chair, rocking chair, full length mirror
- Flowers and vase
- Pots and pans
- Small eating utensils
- Cooking utensils (serving spoons, whisk, ladle, spatula...)
- Dish towels
- Dishes – plates, bowls, cups
- Coffee pot, toaster, mixer
- Dolls (variety of ethnicity)
- Phones
- Empty food containers and boxes
- Plastic food
- Shoes, boots, dresses, skirts, sporting jersey's
- Ties and scarves
- Beaded necklaces or costume jewelry
- Purses/wallets
- Keys
- Basket of books reflecting "dramatic play" topics
- Paper and Pencils

## Art:

- Paint (for easel) and brushes
- Watercolors
- Pipe cleaners
- Tissue paper
- Spangles
- Glitter
- Glue
- Markers/crayons
- Feathers
- Glue sticks
- Hole punch
- Chalk
- Paper (various types)
- Scissors
- Stamps and ink pads
- Beads and string
- Ribbon
- Stencils
- Colored masking tape
- Pom poms
- Cotton balls
- Lace
- Materials for creating 3D creations (play doh, clay, recyclables)
- Staplers
- Tape

The dramatic play can be changed to a restaurant, hospital, store, ice cream shop, hair salon, etc... have prop boxes on hand to change from a "house" to a theme the children have expressed an interest in.

## Science and Nature:

- Sensory table

Materials to use in sensory table:

-bowls -  
buckets  
-recyclables -  
funnels  
-colanders  
-sifter  
-egg beaters -boats  
-sponges  
-water wheels  
-eye droppers -  
measuring cups  
- baby dolls -  
scoops  
-animals  
-sticks

- Magnets
- Balance scale
- Plants
- Classroom pets (within licensing requirements)
- Smelling containers
- Coloring mixing jars
- Color paddles
- Mirrors
- Observation tubes
- Magnifying glasses
- Rocks
- Seashells
- Leaves
- Pine cones
- Seeds
- Flowers
- Nature sequencing cards

- Sink and float materials
- Thermometer
- Writing materials
- Basket of books related to science materials
- Binoculars
- Tongues
- Tweezers (child sized)

## Library/Quiet Area:

- Books  
Variety of Books – fantasy, factual information, stories about people (representing varying cultures and abilities), animals, various types of illustrations, homemade books
- Writing materials
- Puzzles
- Soft chairs and pillows, bean bags, sofa
- Flannel board with stories available for the children to manipulate
- Listening center
- Props for storytelling
- Literacy games
- Lacing cards
- Posters and photos of the children in your group

**Blocks:**

- Large floor space, out of the way of children walking through it to get to another area
- Unit blocks
- Hollow blocks
- Cylinder blocks
- Arches
- Trains and train tracks
- Large open, labeled block shelf
- Cars and trucks (large and small)
- Animals
- Road Signs
- Dollhouse furniture
- People (family sets, community workers, ethnic groups)
- car rug
- Pictures of different types of architecture
- Writing basket with pencils, markers, paper
- Basket of books related to building

- Memory game
- Charts and Graphs made with the children
- Basket of books regarding math concepts
- Basket of writing materials

**Music and Movement:**

- wrist bells
- rhythm sticks
- sandpaper blocks
- tambourines
- maracas
- homemade instruments
- drums
- Variety of CD's
- Dancing scarves

**Math and Manipulatives:**

- Open shelf, close to a table
- Peg boards
- Dominoes
- Counting bears
- Interlocking blocks
- Gear sets
- Calendar
- Puzzles
- Sorting materials
- Homemade games
- Materials for patterning
- Parquet blocks