



The Knowledge House Guide to:
Basic Materials, Supplies, and Equipment for Preschool

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A preschool learning environment should be inviting, clean, organized, safe, and visually appealing to children. The majority of items should be stored on shelves or in labeled bins and displayed at the child's eye level for easy accessibility and clean-up. You should be able to stock your preschool learning center fairly inexpensively. In fact, you probably already have many of these materials around the house!

Preschool Learning Center

- Table & Chairs
- Desk
- Bookcase
- Storage Shelves
- Containers/Bins
- File Folders
- Area Rug (colorful play rug)
- Sleeping/Exercise Mat
- Chalkboard/Whiteboard
- Bulletin Board
- Digital Camera
- Computer/Tablet
- Printer
- Pencil Sharpener
- Bell/Timer
- Wall Clock
- Award Stickers/Small Prizes

Literacy & Language Development

- Children's Literature (picture books, fiction, nonfiction, poetry)
- Alphabet Puzzle
- Wooden Alphabet Blocks
- ABC Magnets
- Vocabulary Cards
- Alphabet Game
- Play Phone
- Books on CD
- Writing Instruments (pencils, pens, crayons, chalk)
- Paper (lined and unlined)
- Handwriting Practice Pads
- Workbooks
- Write-on & Wipe-off Boards
- Magazines



Dramatic Play

Play Store (with plastic food, empty cereal boxes, small shampoo bottles, cash register, play money)
Child-size Kitchen Equipment
Puppet Theatre/Puppets
Costume Trunk
Doctor Kit
Dolls & Accessories
Doll House
Toy Vehicles (cars, trucks, trains)

Blocks & Building

Wooden Blocks in various shapes & sizes
LEGO Bricks & accessories (vehicles, minifigures, animals, etc.)
Real/Found Objects (egg cartons, plastic cups, cardboard tubes, etc.)

Math Manipulatives

Counting Objects (bears, cubes, rods, colored disks, popsicle sticks, coins, etc.)
Sorting Objects (bears, animals, buttons, poker chips, rocks, etc.)
Shape Recognition Materials (pattern blocks, attribute shapes, geometry blocks, tangrams, etc.)
Hand-Eye Coordination (beads, pegs & peg boards, lacing cards & laces, puzzles, etc.)
Scales (food, balance, bath)
Measuring Tools (rulers, tape measure)
Time Keepers (kitchen timer, hour glass, stop watch, learning clock)
Games (dice, dominoes, number bingo, matching game, counting game, flashcards, etc.)

Science

Living thing to care for (plant, pet)
Science Experiments
Natural Objects (shells, rocks, pinecones, feathers, etc.)
Sensory materials (sand, beans, rice, pasta, etc.)
Items for digging, scooping, pouring (scoops, ladles, sifters, strainers, spoons, cups, etc.)
Magnets (& metal items to attract, such as paperclips)
Magnifying Glass
Binoculars
Prism
Compass
Animal Figures

Social Studies

Globe
American Flag
Maps (World, USA, State)
Pictures of American Landmarks (Statue of Liberty, White House, U.S. Capitol, Liberty Bell, etc.)
Postcards from other countries
Flags of the World poster
Community Helpers playsets (fire, police, doctor, mailman, construction workers, etc.)
History Timeline



Arts & Crafts

- Smock
- Paint Easel
- Watercolors
- Brushes
- Crayons
- Colored Pencils
- Washable Markers
- Safety Scissors
- Play dough (red, yellow, green, blue, orange)
- Clay Tools (rolling pin, cookie cutters, etc.)
- Paper (white, colored, tissue, newsprint)
- Aluminum Foil
- Waxed Paper
- Decorative Stickers
- Rubber Stamps
- Collage Materials (sequins, yarn, pipe cleaners, fabric scraps, buttons, cotton balls, foam pieces)
- Materials for 3-D Creations (small boxes, straws, paper plates, cardboard tubes, popsicle sticks)
- White Glue/Paste/Glue Stick
- Masking Tape
- Clear Tape

Music

- CD Player
- Piano or Keyboard
- Small Musical Instruments (recorder, tambourine, triangle, drum, maracas, etc.)
- Age-appropriate CDs (children's songs, classical, nature sounds, etc.)
- Song Book

Physical Activity

- Balls of different types and sizes
- Plastic Bat
- Bean Bags
- Catching Games/Gloves
- Cones for Obstacle Course
- Dance & Movement Props (colorful scarves, ribbons, streamers)
- Hoops
- Tricycle
- Wagon
- Scooter
- Swing
- Slide

