

Materials/Equipment List

for School Age Child Care Centres

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High quality early learning and child care programs provide safe, stimulating environments that are warm, comfortable, inclusive and aesthetically pleasing. As school age children mature, they need challenges for their increased abilities. Children should be free to choose their own activities and play partners. They also need quick access to caring, responsive adults. School age child care should help all children develop independence using a wide range of activities that complement the school day. The environment and activities should help children learn to interact socially, solve problems, explore and be creative. Children should be involved in planning and organizing the environment using a variety of materials and equipment.

Materials and equipment should:

- be available in quantity and variety to occupy all children in attendance
- be consistent with the developmental capabilities of all children in attendance
- support natural play that children start and take part in spontaneously
- be where all children can reach and use them by themselves (adapted as needed)
- be organized into interest centres
- be arranged so quiet and active centres do not interfere with one another
- be arranged so children can work individually, in small groups and in large groups
- be arranged so there are opportunities for children to modify and personalize space
(ex: arrange the furniture or put up art work)
- support and encourage respect for diversity (race, culture, age, abilities, gender) in all activity areas
- change often based on children's interests and abilities
- include materials that build on field trips and school and community activities
- be provided both indoors and outdoors to broaden children's exploration and experiences

Activity Area: Dramatic

(Daily living centre, drama and theatre)

Materials/Equipment

1. Home Area: (as children start to outgrow family life play, set up other creative dramatic play with a broader range of props)

- stove, sink with cabinet for storing dishes, refrigerator, table, chairs, bed, dresser, dress up clothes
- pots, pans, cutlery, dishes, muffin pan, wok, toaster, play food, serving plates, pitchers, empty containers from food products
- cleaning supplies including real mops, brooms, feather dusters, rags, pails, empty containers from cleaning products
- infant dolls, dolls for doll houses, adult dolls (culturally diverse)
- doll furniture, cradle, crib, high chair, stroller, wheelchair, walker, baby carrier, doll clothes, accessories
- full length mirror, hand mirror
- phones, clocks, radios, cameras
- stuffed animals
- fabrics, blankets from various cultures

2. Dress up clothes: (male, female, seasonal and cultural styles)

- jackets, shirts, dresses, skirts, pants
- accessories, jewellery, purses, tote bags, briefcases, suitcases, sunglasses, clip-on ties, scarves
- adaptive devices, adjustable chairs, canes, magnifiers
- hats, head gear (seasonal, historical, work, sports)
- costumes
- boots, sandals, slippers, shoes

3. Props and theatre boxes:

(these items should be as realistic as possible, appeal to the children's interests and reflect cultural diversity)

- repair shop: hammers, safety glasses, coveralls, work clothes, flashlights, home and car repair books, workbench, tape measure, tool box, paint brushes, rollers, pans
- health clinic: bandages, tape, gauze, cotton balls, splints, stethoscope, eye droppers, eye chart, magnifying glasses, scales, height-weight charts, stop watch, prescription pads, red finger paint, first aid books, stretcher, cot, get-well cards, hospital gowns, medical uniforms, thermal blankets, pillows, blood pressure gauge, clipboards, x-rays
- mini-mall: things to sell, play money, tote bags, cash register, calculator, adding machine, shopping cart, scanner, old credit cards, label printer, price tags, hangers, clothing racks, shelves
- movies, TV, stage production: old costumes, wigs, boa, microphone, stage props, clowning materials, dance shoes, empty popcorn boxes, tickets, paper money, stage, video camera, sound system
- party : banners, confetti, balloons, noise makers, hats, tiaras, flameless candles, costumes, invitations to seasonal and cultural celebrations
- restaurant : tables, chairs, cash register, note pads, menus, trays, smocks, take out containers, realistic play money, play food
- camping: tent, fire pit, pots, pans, sleeping bags, back packs, binoculars, telescopes, first aid kit, fishing gear, maps, guides, climbing gear, waders
- disc jockey: CDs, records, tapes, audio equipment, head sets, microphones, Karaoke machine, mirror ball, lights, desk

Comments: _____

Activity Area: Fine Motor / Quiet Games

(Quiet thinking centre, manipulative centre)

Materials/Equipment

Choose some from each category with different degrees of difficulty.

1. Small building toys:

- small wooden blocks
- interlocking blocks (Lego)
- magnetic balls and sticks (Magnetix)
- Tinkertoys
- Lincoln Logs
- Bristle Blocks
- K'Nex

2. Games and puzzles:

- strategy board games (ex: checkers, chess, backgammon)
- social board games (ex: Mousetrap, Monopoly)
- playing cards
- word games, pencils, paper, score cards, chalkboards, charts
- jacks, marbles
- variety of puzzles for different age groups
- factual card games (ex: Dinosaurs, Egypt, Aztec)

3. Manipulative:

- different size beads, strings, wires, pattern designs
- sewing materials, needles, wool, burlap, buttons
- geometric boards with elastic
- sturdy pattern shapes, pattern cards
- gears
- tools to take apart objects (ex: old clocks, radios, machines)
- straws, sticks with connectors
- model kits
- Playmobil

4. Art materials: See Creative Activity Area section on next page.

Storage, furnishings, space:

- containers, baskets (clear plastic, wicker, rattan)
- child-size tables, chairs
- open shelves
- low tables to hold long term projects and hobbies
- carpeted area

Comments: _____

Activity Area: Creative

(Art centre, wood construction area)

Materials/Equipment

Choose some from each category.

1. Drawing:

- crayons, pastels, charcoal
- coloured pencils, pens, washable markers, calligraphy pens, erasers
- variety of paper, cardboard
- dry-erase boards, markers
- chalk, chalk board, erasers

2. Painting:

- non-toxic paint (tempera, acrylic, oil, water colour, finger paint), food colouring
- non-toxic body, face paints
- paint for fabric art
- coloured ink, stamps, wood blocks, natural materials, cardboard, silkscreen
- paint brushes, rollers, squeeze bottles, spray bottles, sponges, Q-tips, paint scrapers
- batik, tie-dye dyes, fabric, paraffin wax, wax basins

3. Collage:

- glue, paste, glue sticks, pots, brushes, spreaders
- paper scraps, magazines, cards, wrapping paper, ribbon, cellophane, newspapers
- cardboard tubes, boxes, rolls
- fabric remnants, felt, burlap, leather
- yarn, string
- cotton balls, pompoms
- glitter, buttons, sequins, gems, beads
- safe 'found' objects and junk
- pods, weeds, grasses, bark, leaves, seeds, twigs, feathers, rocks, pebbles, shells
- flower drying press
- paper making supplies

4. Three-dimensional art:

- play dough, art dough
- sculpting clay (moist, oil-based), soap cakes, soap stone, plaster of Paris, Styrofoam, driftwood, snow, ice
- cardboard tubes, boxes
- pipe cleaners, wires, toothpicks, straws, foil
- origami paper, paper mache supplies
- ceramics supplies
- paraffin wax, wax basins

5. Tools:

- left, right-handed scissors
- staplers
- geometry sets
- paper punches
- paper fasteners, clips, thumb tacks
- adhesive tapes, glue, craft glue gun
- sandpaper, cloth, string, wire, jar tops, dowels, knobs, nails, screws, whittling tools
- tweezers, rubber bands
- sewing machine, frames, hoops, looms, needles, thread, fabric, crochet hooks, knitting needles, yarn, pins, pin cushion, macramé ropes, basket weaving hemp, weaving supplies, Velcro, buttons, hooks, snaps
- photography supplies, digital photo frame, access to photo printers

6. Construction and carpentry:

- hammers, screwdrivers, planes, saws, clamps, pliers, hand drill, power screwdriver, metal snips, T-square, levels, sand paper, tape measure, rulers
- tool boxes
- nails, screws, nuts, bolts, bottle caps, jar tops, plastic lids, corks, wheels
- painting shirts, smocks
- tree stumps, logs, saw horse
- wood glue
- soft lumber, dowels, knobs
- goggles, tool belts, carpentry aprons

Storage, furnishings:

- open shelves
- containers (clear plastic, wicker, rattan)
- easels, drafting board
- child-size tables, chairs
- sturdy work area
- facilities for drying, display, and storing ongoing projects
- workbench

Comments: _____

Activity Area: Block

Materials/Equipment

1. Blocks:

- unit blocks, triangles, squares, rectangles, cylinders, arches
- large, hollow, open-end blocks
- natural wood blocks, oak, birch, basswood, pine
- cardboard milk cartons, plastic containers, foam containers, sturdy boxes, crates

2. Accessories: (at least three types)

- vehicles (ex: small trucks, cars, trains, farm equipment)
- traffic, road signs
- human figures (culturally diverse)
- historical figures (ex: knights, Tudor, Egyptian, Roman, Viking, pioneers)
- animal figures (geographically diverse)
- blankets, sheets, tarps, tents
- loose parts, ramps, boards, cardboard cylinders, tires, cardboard cartons, slabs, plastic pipes, tubes, gutters, large paper fasteners
- fabric, rug samples

Storage, space:

- open shelves
- containers, baskets (clear plastic, wicker, rattan)
- large area to work, play, move around
- carpeted floor area

Comments: _____

Activity Area: Reading

(Language reasoning, literacy, books and pictures, library area)

Materials/Equipment

Choose a variety of books, photo albums, magazines, poetry with various reading levels from these categories.

1. Factual:

- animals, birds, plants
- people, genealogy, history, holidays, cultural customs
- life skills, real-life experiences
- encyclopaedia, dictionary
- newspapers

2. Nature, science, social studies:

- environment (ex: erosion, insects, plants, pollution, recycling)
- human body
- animal habitats
- home, life
- family structure, divorce, single parent, gay, lesbian, adoption, foster families, generational
- magazines, (**National Geographic, Canadian Geographic**)

3. Culture:

- contemporary, historical, races, cultures, civilizations
- different languages (ex: French, Braille, Ojibway, Chinese)
- magazines from various cultures

4. Diverse abilities:

- stories with people who need additional support (wheelchair, crutches, hearing devices)
- magazines from different associations, support groups

5. Fantasy:

- chapter stories
- comic books
- picture books

6. Additional language materials:

- flannel board, felt, Velcro cut-outs to make picture stories
- puppets, puppet theatre
- posters, pictures, artefacts
- listening centre, recorded stories, headphones
- slide projector, slide set
- book binding, paper punches, thick yarn, cardboard, coils, book coverings
- note books, journals, stationary, envelopes
- sign making supplies
- staplers, paper, pencils, pens, clip boards, writing surfaces
- language games, walkie-talkies
- cameras (video, digital)

Storage, furnishings, space:

- book display
- comfortable seating, upholstered chairs, reclining chairs, couch
- pillows, futon, direct light source, floor lights, table lights
- separate quiet area for children to calm themselves

Comments: _____

Activity Area: Large Muscle

(Active role play centre, space, equipment for gross motor play)

Materials/Equipment

1. Stationary equipment:

- structures, natural climbing equipment, hills, pits, fallen trees logs, boulders
- slides, swings
- balancing beams
- table tennis, Foosball, air hockey, pool

2. Portable equipment:

- different balls (soccer, sports, juggling)
- basket ball hoop, badminton and tennis rackets, bats, floor hockey sticks, nets, punching bag, protective gear
- bikes, wheel barrow, scooters, scooter boards, roller blades
- croquet set, bowling set, horseshoes, yo-yos, paddle balls, rubber cones, ring toss
- tumbling mats
- bean bags, targets, containers
- hula hoops, jump ropes
- parachutes, kites, gliders
- Frisbees
- stilts, pogo sticks
- tunnels
- toboggans, sleds, ice skates
- large blocks
- big cardboard boxes, blankets, plastic eaves troughs, wood pieces, planks, tires, large cable spools
- gardening tools

Activity Area: Sand and Water

Materials/Equipment

1. Sand/water:

- sand boxes, sand tables, outdoor sand pits, water tables, dishpans, plastic bins, tubs, buckets, sinks
- hose, water sprinkler
- sand, sand substitute, modeling sand, play pellets

2. Sand/water toys:

- measuring cups, spoons, beakers, containers, pails, plastic bottles
- large metal and plastic shovels, scoops, moulds
- pumps, siphons, sand and water wheels
- sponges, water droppers, spray bottles, turkey basters
- funnels, plastic tubes, pipes
- trowels, rakes, sand scrapers, screens, sifters
- floating and sinking objects
- shells, wood pieces, rocks

3. Dramatic play toys:

- animals, dinosaurs, sea creatures, small people
- small trucks, cars, machinery, boats
- large spoons, straining spoons, egg beaters, tongs, pots, pans, muffin tins, whisks

Storage, furnishings, space:

- shelf under water and sand table
- sinks nearby
- easy-clean flooring
- brooms, mops

Activity Area: Science

(Science, discovery centre)

Materials/Equipment

Choose some from each category.

1. Natural objects:

- flowers, moss, leaves, seeds, plants, acorns, bulbs
- shells, rocks, pine cones
- bird nests, insect nests, feathers
- fossils, bones
- wood, twigs, branches, drift wood
- sand, earth, water

2. Living things:

- pets acceptable to the health authority, cages
- plants, flowers, terrarium
- aquarium, gold fish, snails, frogs, tadpoles, insects
- worm composter
- garden plants, seeds, bulbs, ferns, mosses
- incubators to hatch eggs
- bat house, bird feeder, bird bath visible from window

3. Nature and science books, posters, games, puzzles:

- books and posters of animals, plants, birds, fish, human body, seasons, weather, planets, environment, universe, sky, star charts, habitats, rock formations, continents
- maps, globe, atlas
- x-rays
- nature games, matching pictures, cards, nature sequence cards
- science and nature puzzles (plant, animal, human life cycles)
- floor puzzles

4. Nature and science materials:

- weather vane, wind funnels, pinwheel, wind chimes, fan, chronometer, temperature gauge, water gauge, observation chart
- magnets
- magnifying glasses, hand lenses, slides, microscope, binoculars
- pulleys, levers, ropes
- thermometers, compasses, pendulums
- tuning forks
- digital and weighted scales
- prisms, kaleidoscope, mirrors, coloured lenses
- batteries, wire, light bulbs
- tools to explore inside rocks, seeds, nuts
- tools to take apart old clocks, radios, machines, appliances

Storage, furnishings:

- shelves, display area
- tables, chairs
- light table, overhead projector
- magnifying table

Comments: _____

Activity Area: Math and Numbers

Materials/Equipment

Choose some from each category.

1. Measuring:

- dry and liquid measuring cups, spoons, bowls
- scales, weights, digital scales
- cloth tape measures, metre stick, rulers, wind-up metre tape
- thermometers
- height chart
- centimetre cubes, snap cubes
- beakers, test tubes

2. Shapes:

- magnetic shapes, boards
- pattern cards, matching cards
- variety of attribute (number) blocks
- parquet blocks
- geometric puzzles, unit blocks
- geometry sets
- design, architecture, pyramid books

3. Counting:

- small blocks, objects to count
- play money
- attribute (number) beads, activity cards
- pegs, peg boards
- board games, marbles, dice
- stop watches

4. Written numbers:

- number books, posters
- graph paper, plain paper, pencils
- calculators, clocks
- calendar
- playing cards
- number games

5. Quantities:

- dominos, dice
- playing cards, Uno
- charts, graphs, puzzles
- number-comparison, fractions games
- Cuisenaire rods
- snap cubes, centimetre cubes
- three-dimensional graduated cylinders

Comments: _____

Activity Area: Music and Movement

Materials/Equipment

1. Musical instruments: (can be homemade or commercial, from various cultures)

- harmonica, recorders, kazoos
- guitar, auto harp, banjo, piano, xylophone
- bells, triangles, tambourines, drums
- maracas, cymbals, rhythm sticks
- gourds, cans, washboard, castanets, tone blocks

2. Dance props:

- scarves, capes, pompoms, ribbons, streamers, hoops
- male and female dancing clothes, shoes
- costumes, props from various cultures
- historical costumes

3. Audio equipment:

- tape deck, CD player, tape recorder, radio
- music tapes and CDs, folk, classical, children's songs, jazz, rock, reggae, rhythm and blues
- music from various cultures, countries, in various languages
- dance videos from various cultures
- listening centre, headphones, microphones, Karaoke machine

Storage, furnishings, space:

- open shelves
- tables, chairs
- open areas, some kind of performance stage

Comments: _____

Activity Area: Technology Centre

(TV, video, computers)

Materials/Equipment

A technology centre must have safety precautions for online activities and provide positive, constructive activities that are carefully supervised. Technology helps children and staff expand learning. If you use gaming and communication devices (portable or stationary), limit the amount of time they are used and monitor regularly for appropriateness.

Technology must be culturally sensitive and developmentally appropriate. It should not have any violent, frightening or sexually explicit content. Put screens in highly visible areas where the staff can provide assistance and monitor easily.

Technical equipment:

- TV shows, movies, videos, computer software
- computers, printers, scanners
- cameras, video recorders, digital recorders

Storage/furnishing:

- adjustable tables and chairs

Comments: _____

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For further information, contact the **Early Learning and Child Care Program** at:

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