

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS
FOR THE
KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM

EARLY YEARS DEPARTMENT



SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS FOR THE KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM

When choosing equipment and materials for kindergarten children, consider materials that will:

- provide for the range of abilities and interests at this age (ensure they are also reflective of the diversity of cultures in the community)
- encourage social and co-operative interaction e.g., through dramatic play activities, games support the development of artistic expression and creative thinking through movement, music, visual arts, drama
- allow children to explore and investigate, following their natural motivation and curiosity
- provide information about a topic or interest and develop perceptual and conceptual skills in many areas (spatial and numerical, science, art, language and literacy, health, the environment)
- allow children to explore their natural world e.g., collections of rocks, magnifying glasses to observe creatures
- allow for different levels of complexity and are open-ended e.g., blocks, construction materials, visual arts materials
- reflect diversity in culture, race, gender, and sexual orientation
- be durable, of good quality, and safe for young children to use

FURNITURE/EQUIPMENT

- Chair for teacher
- A combination easel for teacher
- Big book stand, preferably with storage
- Book shelves for displaying and storing books
- Storage units if adequate shelving is not available
- Carpet for meeting area
- At least 3 shelving units (moveable ones can double as room dividers and display areas)
- Tape recorder and head phones/listening station
- Computer and printer
- Large blocks
- Sand table
- Water table
- Furniture for dramatic play area: table and chairs, fridge, stove, chest of drawers, hutch, beds for dolls (optional high chairs, ironing board)
- Approximately 10-12 small rectangular tables with a combination of round or hexagonal shapes and approximately 25 chairs to accommodate the various centres in the classroom
- Drying unit for paintings
- Easels for painting (optional)
- Full length mirror

The following are lists of basic supplies and equipment to support the centres in the kindergarten classroom. The lists are not meant to be exclusive or exhaustive but represent the minimum that should be in the centres.

LITERACY CENTRES

Many of the books and literacy materials may be stored centrally in the meeting area but they should also be placed throughout the classroom as appropriate to the centre and the activity.

LITERACY CENTRE/BOOK CORNER

- A rotating collection of high quality children's literature which includes a range of genre and dual language books or books in first language
- Display shelf for books
- Containers for storing books for independent reading, and books sorted by levels that contain a variety of genres
- A variety of book formats e.g. class made books, pop-up books
- Furniture for children to sit comfortably e.g., pillows, cushions, small rocking chairs
- Pocket chart
- Variety of pointers and word windows
- Alphabet chart
- Puppets – fingers, hand, stick
- Props to support retelling
- Storage for the children's individual browsing boxes

LISTENING CENTRE

- Tape recorder
- Headphones/listening station
- Song tapes (copies of the songs placed in a scrapbook)
- Story tapes and enough copies of the accompanying book for each child at the centre

WRITING CENTRE

Although most of the writing materials are stored in this area, it is important to put paper and writing utensils in all areas of the room.

FURNITURE AND STORAGE

- Bulletin board for posting work
- File boxes and folders for storing work
- Shelves for a variety of paper and writing materials
- Tables and chairs
- Upper- and lowercase alphabet

PAPER

- Different sizes, colours, lined and unlined and of different quality
- Envelopes, cancelled stamps, advertisement stamps, and stickers

- Greeting cards and postcards
- Memo pads
- Notebooks
- Sticky notes

WRITING UTENSILS

- Pencils (primary and standard size)
- Markers (large and small)
- Coloured pencils
- Crayons of different size

OTHER SUPPLIES

- Alphabet cards with pictures of initial sound
- Class list or name cards
- Alphabet letters e.g., magnetic, wooden
- Letters of various textures
- Individual alphabet strip placed on table
- Date stamp and stamp pad
- Letter, number, and design stamps
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Stapler and staples

MATH CENTRES

FURNITURE, STORAGE, AND SUPPLIES

- Chart with numerals
- Paper and pencils
- Shelves to store math manipulatives and games
- Table and chairs
- Number line

MATH MANIPULATIVES/MATERIALS

Children in the kindergarten classroom need **a variety of** different manipulatives that they can access.

Ensure that children have access to:

- Materials for measuring: scales, thermometer (sturdy and encased), graduated cylinders, materials for standard (metre stick) and non-standard measurement (straws, tongue depressors for liner measurement and cubes for volume/capacity), play clocks
- Materials for patterning (commercial and found): pattern blocks, attribute blocks, coloured blocks, buttons
- Materials for sorting (commercial and found which lend themselves to sorting by colour, size and shape): counters, buttons, yogurt containers, models of animals, beads, logic/attribute blocks

- Materials for exploring number: plastic/wooden numerals, number line, number books, materials for counting and grouping, hundreds board
- Materials for exploring geometry and spatial sense: attribute blocks, three dimensional shapes, puzzles of different sizes and difficulty, large geoboards 5x5
- Materials for ordering e.g., nesting cups, cuisenaire rods
- Materials for matching e.g., lotto games by colour, picture
- Play money
- Books that explore mathematical concepts and problem solving

OTHER MATH MANIPULATIVES

- Bead/strings
- Simple board games with few rules
- Dominoes
- Number puzzles
- Pegboards/pegs
- Dice and spinner

BLOCKS AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

- Large wooden, hollow or foam building blocks
- Hardwood unit blocks (medium size)
- Paper, pencils, crayons for making signs and writing plans
- A variety of construction materials: commercial e.g., small coloured building blocks, Duplo, Sonos, Lasy, Mobilo, train set; and found materials (there should be at least 6 different ones) e.g., yogurt containers, ice cream tubs, spools or reels
- Models of people (multicultural families, community workers), models of animals e.g., pets, farm, zoo, dinosaurs
- Road sign
- Shelf which encourages sorting of the materials for storage
- Vehicles (airplanes, boats, cars, spacecraft, trucks)
- Books (related to the building interest)
- Props that relate to the building e.g., fire hose, boots

WATER CENTRE

- Water table on legs with drain or a plastic transparent water tub that fits on a table
- Shelf or table for organizing materials
- Books related to the centre: water cycle, water life, shells, and boats
- Standard and non-standard measuring containers: graduated cylinders, measuring cups, buckets, pitchers, yogurt containers, empty plastic juice containers
- Paper, pencils and crayons for writing signs and recording experiments
- Water wheel
- Materials for exploring sinking and floating
- Siphons, tubing, water pumps
- Soap and bubble making tools
- Props e.g., boats for fish
- Mop

SAND CENTRE

- Large sand table on legs (if possible one for wet and one for dry)
- Shelf or table for organizing materials
- Books related to sand
- Standard and non-standard containers for measuring e.g., graduated containers, yogurt cups, empty sugar bags
- Standard and non-standard tools for moving the sand e.g., graduated containers, measuring cups, buckets and pitchers
- Paper, pencils and crayons for writing signs and recording experiments
- Tools for digging and shaping – scoops, shovels, moulds, spoons
- Sifters and funnels
- Models e.g., farm animals, zoo animals, dinosaurs, people, etc.
- Broom and dustpan

DRAMATIC PLAY CENTRE

Equipment for dramatic play centre can be supplemented by adding materials found in the classroom, objects found at home, or made from recycled materials at school.

HOME CENTRE

- Full length mirror, hand mirrors, stove, fridge, sink unit, chest of drawers, hutch of utensils
- Dolls (multiracial and a variety of sizes)
- Clothing for dolls (from various cultures)
- Dish, cutlery, cooking utensils (include materials representative of the cultures in the classroom e.g., woks, chopsticks)
- Table and chairs set
- Cleaning equipment e.g., broom, dustpan
- Reading and writing materials (newspapers, coupons, writing paper, notepads for lists, pencils, class list)
- Telephones and telephone book
- Dress up clothes

**All materials should represent many cultures

OTHER MATERIALS

- Puppets and puppet theatre
- A variety of props for retelling familiar stories
- Felt board and felt props for retelling

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Materials for observation and exploration e.g., magnifying glasses, simple microscopes, view finders, bug boxes, colour paddles, prisms
- Materials to sort and classify e.g., rocks, shells, nuts
- Materials to support children caring for living things e.g., terrarium/aquarium, plants
- Materials for standard and non-standard measurement e.g., scales, thermometer (sturdy and encased, alcohol), graduated containers, timers

- Materials for building (commercial and found): coloured blocks, film canisters, egg cartons, yogurt or ice cream tubs, small boxes
- Examples of simple machines: egg beater, corkscrew, hammer, can opener
- Materials to explore technology concepts e.g., pulleys, construction materials with gears, wheels and axles

WORKBENCH

Construction Materials

- Glue
- Nails, screws, washers, nuts, bolts
- Sand paper
- Tools suitable for young children (hammer, saw, hand drill, screw driver, wrench)
- Vice
- Wood
- Protective goggles

***For information about safety procedures please refer to: Toronto District School Board: Science and Technology Grades 1-8, Safety in the Elementary Classroom*

COMPUTER CENTRE

- 2 computers with CD-ROM drives
- printer, preferably colour
- appropriate software for drawing, writing, reading, publishing, exploring math concepts

VISUAL ARTS CENTRE

FURNITURE AND STORAGE

- Display table or area
- Drying rack for paintings
- Shelf to hold art supplies and recycled materials
- Table and chairs
- Painting easels/stand or tables

PAINT

- Finger paint
- Tempra paint and brushes
- Water colours and brushes
- Paint container

PAPER

- Cellophane
- Construction paper of various sizes and colours
- Crepe paper
- Finger paint paper

- Foil
- Tagboard
- Tissue paper
- White and manila paper
- Newsprint

Note: Young children need large paper to work on.

OTHER SUPPLIES

- Materials for printmaking e.g., found materials such as letters, sponges in different shapes, cookie cutters
- Coloured pencils
- Crayons
- Markers
- Glue and masking tape
- Plasticine and playdough as well as tools for shaping and forming
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Plastic aprons
- Materials to cover the tables e.g., large sheets of newsprint, oilcloth
- Materials for clean-up e.g., sponges, cloths

FOUND

- Buttons
- Toilet paper rolls
- Natural objects e.g., twigs, pebbles, pine cones, leaves
- Paper
- Plastic containers
- Styrofoam
- Small pieces of wood
- Yarn
- Boxes
- Wrapping paper
- Used greeting cards
- Pieces of ribbon
- Feathers
- Sequins
- Glitter
- Beads
- Magazines and catalogues
- Pieces of fabric
- Bendable wire suitable for young children to manipulate

MUSIC

- A variety of instruments e.g., sticks, wood blocks, shakers, bells, drums, tambourines
- Recorded music for singing, movement and to use with rhythm instruments
- Words to simple and familiar songs posted for shared reading

CURRENT INTEREST CENTRE

Interest centres are temporary centres that develop from children's interests and suggestions, chance events, stories, books. Interest centres are collections of related materials, props, and models that engage students.

- Table and wall space for a display
- Materials to address different levels from concrete to abstract
- Books and visuals that relate to the interest
- Writing materials

OUTDOOR PLAY

- Toys for sand play e.g., large construction vehicles, shovels, large buckets
- Balls for throwing, catching, and kicking
- Skipping ropes
- Pails, large paint brushes for water marking, spray bottles
- Watering cans
- Wagons
- Tricycles
- Wheel barrels
- Scooters
- Sidewalk chalk
- Hoops
- Bean bags
- Bubble making equipment
- Materials for the winter time, e.g., small snow shovels and buckets
- Materials for molding
- Toboggans