

Module 5: Curriculum and Learning Environments

Handout 4

Classroom Interest Areas (Centers)

The materials listed in the chart below are in no way a complete or required list of materials for every early learning environment.

Center	In play in this center, children learn	Materials that should be available
Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-shapes and sizes-problem solving-cooperation-imaginative play-basic number concepts-creativity-how to lift and carry blocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-wooden unit blocks stored in open low shelves by size and shape-play props such as play figures representing diverse populations-farm, forest, and jungle animals-cars, trucks, and boats-raw building materials such as branches, canvas, corn husks, etc.
Creative art	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-to express their ideas and feelings-develop fine motor skills-learn creativity-learn exploration-discover that we all have different ideas and different ways of working	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-easels-paint containers-a wide variety of different sized and shaped brushes-people color and regular color crayons-scissors-markers-glue-modeling clay-hand mirrors-play-doh-collage materials-a wide variety of size and types of paper-a paint drying rack or area
Dramatic play	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-learn to act out familiar adult roles-learn to conquer fears such as going to the doctor-develop social skills such as sharing, cooperation, compromise, and negotiation-develop fine motor skills-learn respect for differences in people and cultures-role play people of other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-child-size furniture and equipment such as table and chairs, stove, refrigerator, and sink-male and female work and play clothes-cooking and eating utensils like those found in children's homes-male and female dolls representing a diversity of races, cultures, and abilities