

Developmentally Appropriate Materials for Infants and Toddlers (Birth to Three)

Young children learn by doing. They need to touch, move, push, pull, taste, smell and listen to develop understanding. As you develop curriculum and define activities and play areas, consider capturing children's interest and fostering their development in learning.

Meal Time

Provide a space for eating/table activities that is well organized, relaxed and pleasant, and suitable to all children's size. Children are fed individually or in very small groups.



Sturdy Furnishing

Furnishings are well cared for and promote self-help. Furnishings make materials accessible, convenient and user friendly to children. Furnishings supports individual needs.



Dramatic Play (Pretend Play)

Materials are accessible to children and organized by type. Play furniture is child-sized. Provide enough materials to carry out meaningful play and promote diversity.



Blocks

Provide a clear (out of traffic), sturdy surface for block play. Have a variety of blocks (for each age group) accessible to encourage children's creativity. Store blocks (by type) and accessories (vehicles, people, and animals) together. Blocks are independent play materials with flat surfaces to stack, build, and create.



Fine Motor (Manipulatives)

Provide a variety of materials for all age groups that are safe, yet challenging. Materials are well organized and accessible to children.



Sand and Water Play

Offer ample materials to dig, dump, pour and float. Set up activities to facilitate play. Not applicable if all children are under 18 months of age.



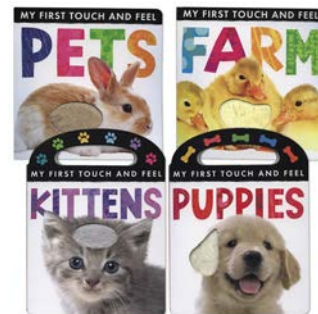
Gross Motor (Active Play)

Offer many age-appropriate materials that stimulate a variety of large muscle skills for both indoor and outdoor physical activities. Provide a large open space for active play.



Nature and Science

Provide pictures, books, games or toys for children that realistically represent nature. Offer daily outdoor experiences with nature and use every day events to help children learn about nature.



Books

Provide a wide selection of books for children. Make book times pleasant and interactive. Gather books in many locations for convenience and use by children.



Math and Numbers

Provide children with items they can use to experiment with quantity, size and shape. Materials are accessible to children and are well organized.



Music

Provide material that children can use to listen to rhythm, tones, or music. Offer a variety of pleasant sounding music materials and provide limited times of recorded music.



Displays

Display colorful, simple pictures, photographs, and children's artwork where children can easily see them. Provide mobiles and other hanging objects for children to look at.



Art

Provide a variety of art materials for children. Encourage individual expression by offering open-ended art activities. Facilitate the use of materials for proper use and safety of children.



Materials available at:
KAPLAN[®]

Contact Child Care Aware of North Dakota to learn more about activities and interest areas for children:
www.ndchildcare.org | 800-997-8515