

## Developmentally Appropriate Materials for Mixed Ages of Children (Birth to 5)

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.



### Sturdy Furnishing

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



## 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, sturdy space 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 materials for children of 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.



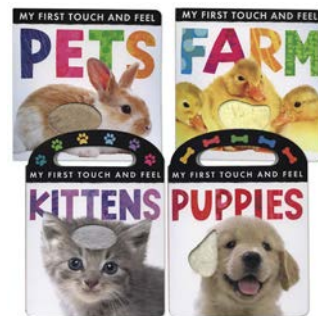
## Gross Motor (Active Play)

Offer age-appropriate materials that stimulate a variety of large muscle skills for both indoor and outdoor physical activities.



## Nature and Science

Provide pictures, books, games or toys for each age group 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 each age group enrolled. Make book times pleasant and interactive. Gather books in many locations for convenience and use by children.



## Math and Numbers

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



## Music

Provide material - including instruments and recordings - that children can use to listen to rhythm, tones, or music. Offer a variety of music materials that are accessible to children of all age groups.



## Displays

Display colorful, simple pictures, photographs, and children's artwork where children can easily see them.



## Art

Provide a variety of art materials for children. Encourage individual expression by offering open-ended art activities.



Materials available at:  
**KAPLAN**<sup>®</sup>

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