

## Developmentally Appropriate Materials for Preschool Children (Ages 3 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. Child sized tables/chairs and eating utensils provided to support independence.



### Sturdy Furnishing

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



## Dramatic Play (Pretend Play)

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



## 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 and toys that realistically represent nature. Arrange for daily outdoor experiences with nature and use every day events to help children learn about nature.



## Books

Offer a wide selection of books (fantasy, factual, animals, people, nature/science, cultures, and abilities). Book times are pleasant and interactive. Provide a space that is protected from active play where children can read.



## Blocks

Provide a clear, sturdy space for block play. Have a variety of blocks accessible to encourage children's creativity. Store blocks (by type and accessories (vehicles, people, and animals) together.



## Fine Motor (Manipulatives)

Provide materials for children that are challenging for different skill levels. Materials are well organized and accessible to children.



## Sand and Water Play

Offer ample materials to dig, dump, pour and float. Set up activities daily facilitate sand/water play.



## Math and Numbers

Offer various types of materials that support counting, measuring, comparing quantities, recognizing shapes, and becoming familiar with written numbers. Provide daily activities to promote math/number learning.



## Music

Musical instruments are accessible to children as well as various types of music that children can listen to. Offer music and movement opportunities for the children.



## 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