

3 - and 4 - year old Suggested Materials List

*This is not an exhaustive list. The types of materials recommended were included because they can be conveniently accessed, stored easily, and frequently sanitized. As the year progresses and circumstances change, children can be offered a greater quantity and are aligned to the ECERS-3 scale.

BOOKS - Possible topics:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Differing abilities <input type="checkbox"/> Different cultures <input type="checkbox"/> Different races <input type="checkbox"/> Feelings <input type="checkbox"/> Health <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs/work	<input type="checkbox"/> Males and females <input type="checkbox"/> Math <input type="checkbox"/> Nature/science <input type="checkbox"/> People <input type="checkbox"/> Sports/hobbies

MUSIC and MOVEMENT - Can be homemade or store bought	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bells <input type="checkbox"/> Castanets <input type="checkbox"/> Cymbals <input type="checkbox"/> Drums <input type="checkbox"/> Electric keyboard <input type="checkbox"/> Hardwood blocks with mallet <input type="checkbox"/> Maracas <input type="checkbox"/> Piano	<input type="checkbox"/> Rainstick <input type="checkbox"/> Rhythm sticks <input type="checkbox"/> Triangles <input type="checkbox"/> Shakers <input type="checkbox"/> Tambourine <input type="checkbox"/> Wrist bells <input type="checkbox"/> Xylophones

FINE MOTOR	
Please note, some materials may be suitable for more than 1 age group or fit more than 1 category.	
<p>Manipulatives</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Gears <input type="checkbox"/> Links <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Potato Head <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts & bolts <input type="checkbox"/> Pattern blocks <input type="checkbox"/> Pegs with peg boards <input type="checkbox"/> Pop beads	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewing cards <input type="checkbox"/> Snap blocks <input type="checkbox"/> Stringing beads <input type="checkbox"/> Table blocks <input type="checkbox"/> Train tracks <input type="checkbox"/> Unifix cubes <input type="checkbox"/> Zip, snap, button toys/vests
<p>Puzzles</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Floor puzzles <input type="checkbox"/> Frame puzzles <input type="checkbox"/> Knobbed puzzles	<p>Interlocking Building Materials</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Bristle blocks <input type="checkbox"/> Duplos <input type="checkbox"/> Legos <input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln Logs <input type="checkbox"/> Tinker toys

<p>Art</p> <p>*All materials must be accompanied by paper, as needed, or another surface for use when carrying out artwork.</p>		
<p>Tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Dot markers <input type="checkbox"/> Brushes <input type="checkbox"/> Hole punches <input type="checkbox"/> Playdough tools <input type="checkbox"/> Rollers <input type="checkbox"/> Ruler <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors <input type="checkbox"/> Sponge painters <input type="checkbox"/> Stamps/stamp pad <input type="checkbox"/> Stapler <input type="checkbox"/> Stencils <input type="checkbox"/> Tape 	<p>3-D</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Boxes <input type="checkbox"/> Clay <input type="checkbox"/> Modeling compound <input type="checkbox"/> Pipe cleaners <input type="checkbox"/> Playdough <input type="checkbox"/> Wood scraps <input type="checkbox"/> "Junk" (e.g., cardboard tubes, packing material, etc.) <p>Drawing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Chalk <input type="checkbox"/> Chalk boards <input type="checkbox"/> Crayons <input type="checkbox"/> Dry erase boards <input type="checkbox"/> Markers <input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils <input type="checkbox"/> Pens 	<p>Collage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Buttons <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard tubes <input type="checkbox"/> Cotton balls <input type="checkbox"/> Egg cartons <input type="checkbox"/> Feathers <input type="checkbox"/> Felt scraps <input type="checkbox"/> Glitter <input type="checkbox"/> Magazines <input type="checkbox"/> Paper scraps <input type="checkbox"/> Paste <input type="checkbox"/> Pom-poms <input type="checkbox"/> Sequins <input type="checkbox"/> Yarn/string <p>Paints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fingerpaints <input type="checkbox"/> Tempera paints <input type="checkbox"/> Watercolors

<p>SAND and WATER</p> <p>There should be enough of the sand/water material so the children can dig, scoop, pour, and empty and fill containers. Do not use dried beans, small pebbles, Styrofoam chips, cornmeal and flour, as they are not appropriate substitutes for sand because of the safety hazards they create for the children.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Buckets <input type="checkbox"/> Funnels <input type="checkbox"/> Measuring cups/spoons <input type="checkbox"/> Pails <input type="checkbox"/> Rakes <input type="checkbox"/> Sand molds <input type="checkbox"/> Scoops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Shovels <input type="checkbox"/> Sifters/Sieve <input type="checkbox"/> Spray bottles <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey baster <input type="checkbox"/> Trowels <input type="checkbox"/> Unbreakable <input type="checkbox"/> Containers (e.g., plastic bowls)

PROMOTING ACCEPTANCE OF DIVERSITY

Materials in all areas should portray positive representation of diversity in races, ages, abilities and gender in non-stereotype roles, including pictures, photos displayed, books, CDs, music tapes, videos, computer software, dolls, puppets, games, puzzles, people in block area, etc.

Books, Displayed Pictures, Play Materials

- Race
- Culture
- Age
- Differing abilities
- Non-traditional gender role

Dramatic Play Materials that Reflect Diversity

- Cultural cooking utensils (e.g., wok, etc.)
- Dolls (different races, cultures)
- Equipment used by people with disabilities
- Multicultural dress-up clothes
- Pretend foods of different cultures

Nature/Science - Nature/Science materials include 4 categories:

Living Things Children Can Observe Closely or Care For

- Ant farm
- Aquarium with fish, snails or other animals
- Butterfly hatching kit
- Class pet
- Eggs that hatch
- Plants
- Window bird feeder
- Worm farm

Natural Objects

- Birds' nest
- Collections of seeds
- Different types of wood
- Insects in transparent plastic
- Leaves
- Nuts
- Pinecones
- Rocks
- Seashells
- Wood

Factual Books/ Nature-Science Picture Games

- Board games
- Matching game (e.g., body parts)
- Plastic animals (realistic)
- Puzzles with nature pictures or natural sequences
- Videos

Nature/Science Tools

- Binoculars/Viewers
- Color paddles
- Kaleidoscope
- Lifting objects with levers/pulleys
- Magnets & magnetic/nonmagnetic things
- Magnifying glasses
- Matching texture boards
- Microscope and slides to look at

- Prisms
- Sensory bottles (oil and water, etc.)
- Smelling cans with different scents
- Tornado tubes
- Using a rain gauge to record how much rain fell

MATH/NUMBERS

Counting/Comparing Quantities

- Abacus
- Beads with bead patterns
- Chart and graph activities for children to use by placing materials into cells
- Dice/dominoes
- Five/ten frame cards
- Games with more or less
- Games with dice
- Pegboards with numbers printed and holes to match
- Playing cards
- Puzzles with written numbers and quantities
- Small objects with numbered containers
- Unifix cubes

Measuring/Comparing Sizes and Parts of Whole (Fractions)

- Balance & bathroom scale
- Games where halves are matched to the whole (fractions)
- Games with parts to divide and put back together to make the whole
- Height chart to measure children's growth
- Math links
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Nested cups
- Puzzles with geometric shapes that must be put together
- Graduated puzzles
- Rulers, yardsticks, tape measures
- Shapes-matching games where geometric shapes are divided into parts (fractions)
- Thermometer

Familiarity with Shapes

- Attribute blocks of different sizes, shapes, colors
- Geoboards (boards with pegs to which rubber bands are attached to make shapes)
- Magnetic shapes
- Parquetry blocks with patterns
- Puzzles with different shapes
- Shape sorters
- Shape stencils
- Unit blocks with image/outline labels on shelves used during clean up

Print Numbers in Display Materials

- Signs for number of children allowed in center with stick figures/object to represent the number
- Poster with numbers and corresponding image showing that number of objects

Play Materials Showing Meaning of Print Numbers

- Matching picture/number cards
- Puzzle with numbered fingers
- Puzzles with number on one piece and that number of dots on matching piece
- Simple number card games

Play Materials with Numbers

- Calculator
- Cash register
- Magnetic numbers
- Number lacing cards
- Number puzzles
- Telephones
- Toy clock

Dramatic Play - items by possible theme:	
<p>Theme: Housekeeping</p> <p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Child-sized furniture (stove, washer/dryer, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking/eating utensils <input type="checkbox"/> Dolls <input type="checkbox"/> Dress-up clothes for both boys and girls <input type="checkbox"/> Play food <p>Additional housekeeping materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Doll clothes <input type="checkbox"/> Doll furniture (bed, high chair, stroller, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Mirror <input type="checkbox"/> Play house <input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed animals <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone <p>Theme: Leisure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Boating <input type="checkbox"/> Camping <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing <input type="checkbox"/> Parties <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic <input type="checkbox"/> Sports <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation 	<p>Theme: Different Kinds of Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Construction (hats, shovels, tools, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Farmer/gardener (rakes, shovels, seed packets, pumpkins, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Firefighter (hose, uniform, buckets, helmet, boots, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Medical (gauze bandages, doctor's kit, dolls, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Office play (office supplies, desk, briefcase, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Post office (mail box, envelopes, postcards, mailbag, jacket, hat, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant (tables & chairs, menus, play money, aprons, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Store (cash register, play food, empty food cartons, bags, pretend money, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Zoo keeper/vet (stuffed or other toy animals, tickets, money, etc.) <p>Theme: Fantasy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Costumes, including hats, capes, fancy dress-ups, crowns, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Magic wands or other accessories <input type="checkbox"/> Simple, non frightening masks or face paint <input type="checkbox"/> Things to act out familiar stories

BLOCKS	
<p>**Accessories should enhance, rather than detract from block play. If use of vehicles or other toys interfere with building, credit is not given.</p>	
<p>Unit Blocks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wood <input type="checkbox"/> Foam <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic <p>Large hollow blocks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wood <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic 	<p>Block Accessories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Animals <input type="checkbox"/> Small people <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Road signs, fences, trees, small buildings, etc.)