

# EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITY AREAS FOR CHILDCARE PROGRAMS

## EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITY AREAS AND SUPPLIES FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18 MONTHS\*

(MUST HAVE AT LEAST 4 AREAS WITH AT LEAST 4 TYPES OF AGE AND DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE SUPPLIES OR EQUIPMENT IN EACH AREA)

### Language/Dramatic Play

Picture books  
Toy telephones  
Records  
Hand puppets  
Stuffed animals  
Soft washable dolls  
Photographs

### Manipulative

Squeeze and grip toys  
Boxes  
Sorting and stacking toys  
3-4 piece wooden inlay puzzles  
Puzzle blocks  
Simple threading toys  
Large crayons and paper

### Building

Soft lightweight blocks  
Toy cars, trains and/or boats  
Figures of animals and people  
Stacking rings and/or cups  
Nesting toys

### Music

Rhythm instruments  
CD or MP3 Player  
Musical toys  
Musical mobiles and busy boxes  
Drums, xylophones and/or piano

### Sensory

Crib mobiles  
Teething toy  
Busy boxes  
Baby mirrors  
Rattles  
Melody chimes  
Squeeze toys

### Large Muscle

Low climbers  
Riding/rocking toys  
Foam or soft plastic balls  
Gym mats  
Play tunnels  
Push and pull toys  
Large soft balls  
Large boxes

## EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITY AREAS AND SUPPLIES FOR CHILDREN OVER 18 MONTHS\*

(MUST HAVE AT LEAST 5 AREAS WITH AT LEAST 5 TYPES OF AGE AND DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE SUPPLIES OR EQUIPMENT IN EACH AREA)

### Dramatic Play

Telephones  
Dress-up clothes/uniforms/props  
Hats, shoes, purses, and luggage  
Doll house, furniture and dolls  
Grocery store props  
Post office props  
Fire department props  
School/farm/hospital props  
Restaurant props  
Trains, cars, planes  
Fabric (different colors and patterns)  
Masks and capes  
Writing materials  
Items for specific prop box themes  
Miscellaneous items such as a camera, sunglasses, wand, etc.

### Art

Clay or play dough  
Non-toxic finger paint and coated paper  
Non-toxic felt-tip markers  
Crayons  
Tempera paint, large brushes  
Easels, newsprint  
Collage materials  
Construction paper  
Tissue paper  
Popsicle sticks  
Yarn and string  
Paste or glue  
Blunt scissors  
Smocks

### Manipulatives

Tabletop building toys  
Stencils  
Pounding bench  
Stacking toys  
Zippers, snaps, buttons  
Variety of puzzles  
Bristle, Lego, nesting, stacking, building, etc.)  
Games (lotto, color and shape, number, etc.)  
Pegs and pegboards  
Counters and sorting containers  
Wheel and gear boards  
Miscellaneous, child-directed items (beads, lacing boards, etc.)

### Large Muscle Activities

Wheel toys  
Climbers  
Rocking boat  
Balance beam  
Barrels and large cartons  
Parachute  
Balls and beanbags  
Gym mats

### Housekeeping

Dolls of many cultures, clothes  
Doll carriage, high chair  
Sink, stove, microwave  
Play Kitchen Appliances  
Dishes and utensils  
Pots and pans  
Empty food cartons  
Table and chairs  
Mop and broom

### Literacy/Books/Library

Books  
Upper and lower case letters  
Flannel board  
Pictures for discussion  
Materials for classification  
Puppets and puppet theater  
CD/tape recorder and headphones  
Read-along story tapes/CDs  
Show and tell items  
Telephones  
Walkie-talkies  
Rugs and cushions

### Music/Movement

Tape player and recorder  
Books to encourage creative music and movement (picture books, fiction, nonfiction, poetry, multicultural books, etc.)  
open area for movement  
Flannel board, flannel board stories, and flannel board cutouts  
Puppets or stuffed animals  
CD or MP3 player, headphones  
Instruments (drums, triangles, tambourines, bells, sand blocks, rhythm sticks, etc.)  
Scarves and streamers

### Science/Discovery

Plants and gardening equipment  
Aquarium with fish  
Other appropriate live animals  
Water table  
Sand or rice table  
Buckets, cups, pitchers, bottles  
Scoops, rakes, shovels, funnels  
Weather chart and thermometer  
Rocks and minerals  
Dinosaurs  
Kaleidoscopes  
Leaves, twigs, pine cones  
Scales  
Gears and pulleys  
Magnets  
Magnifying glass  
Shells, fossils  
Counting equipment

### Math

Blocks of different shapes  
Large Dice  
Calendars  
Measuring cups  
Clocks, timers  
Thermometer  
Rulers and tape measures  
Numerals  
Play money  
Blocks of different shapes, colors, textures, and sizes

\*Center staff shall ensure that supplies provided: do not pose a choking hazard; do not have sharp edges; are maintained in good condition; and are used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.