

# Tip Sheet for Practice and Play: Prekindergarten Blocks and Building Center

*Supporting children's learning and development through learner-centered environments, well-developed and intentional learning experiences, and frequent, high quality language interactions.*

In the blocks and building center, young children have

opportunities to use their imagination to create structures, objects, and scenes. They explore shapes, sizes, and colors, and learn to use language to describe their creations.

World: Geometry, Counting and Cardinality, Operations and Algebraic Thinking, Measurement and Data, Scientific Thinking,

## Tip Sheet for Practice and Play: Prekindergarten Creative Arts Center

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A creative arts center is a designated area where children have opportunities to explore multiple art forms to express themselves artistically and experiment with a variety of

## Tip Sheet for Practice and Play: Prekindergarten Dramatic Play Center

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Dramatic play is a key opportunity for children to express themselves and learn about the world around them. While dramatic play should cross into multiple learning areas – e.g., pretending to be scientists in the science center, an engineer in blocks – preschool classrooms should include a fixed dramatic play center. This learning center provides opportunities for children to explore different roles and real-world situations, using authentic tools and materials. This is a creative space that can be altered according to the theme or special project (e.g., into an office, restaurant, pet adoption center, grocery store, firehouse, service station etc.)

Teachers can plan to use the dramatic play center to support children's learning in multiple ways throughout the day. For example, teachers may add props and materials to reinforce or extend a book topic or abstract concept, convert the area to align with the theme, use it as an open-ended free play center option, as a social and emotional support area, and/or as a station to work with small groups of children or individual children to observe, build specific skills and differentiate instruction.

- Space for up to four children in a noisy area of the room
- Variety of props for dramatic expression that reflect diversity in gender, culture, and occupations
- Play equipment and furniture that can be moved and converted (e.g., table and chairs, shelving, kitchen, safety mirror, benches, storage bins etc.)
- Play props and materials that promote dramatic play and role playing (e.g., office equipment, workshop items, puppets, pretend food, dress-up clothes, dolls and figurines, cash register, pretend money, stuffed animals etc.)
- Authentic props and materials (e.g., calculators, writing materials, clipboards, arts/craft materials for making signs and props, coupons, newspapers, etc.)
- Props to extend book experiences, such as flannel boards and pieces, puppets, and other story character figurines to recreate stories or represent experiences
- Multiple text types, including narrative, informational, and other kinds of texts; books with diverse characters and topics; and books at varying levels

Approaches to Learning: Engagement, Creativity & Imagination, Curiosity & Initiative

Physical Development and Health: Health and Well Being

Social and Emotional Development: Self-Concept and Self-Awareness, Relationships with Others

Communication, Language and Literacy: Representing, Integration and Knowledge of Ideas, Comprehension and Collaboration, Knowledge of Language

Cognition and Knowledge of the World: History, Civics, Citizenship and Government, Economics, Career Development, Theatre/Dramatic Play, Cultural Differences

Find out more: visit <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/earlylearning/>

# Tip Sheet for Practice and Play: Prekindergarten Literacy Center

*Supporting children's learning and development through learner-centered environments, well-developed and intentional learning experiences, and frequent, high quality language interactions.*

While books, texts, and writing materials should be part of every center in a prekindergarten classroom, the literacy center is a specialized and designated area. Literacy centers provide opportunities for children to fully engage with books, text materials, writing materials, and tools such as computers and devices, to meet literacy goals. A rich collection of age appropriate books, text materials, and writing materials and tools provides

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## Tip Sheet for Practice and Play: Prekindergarten Math and Manipulatives Center

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The math and manipulatives center provides opportunities for children to explore number sense, measurement, one-to-one correspondence, and patterns. A math center ensures a dedicated space where objects can be manipulated, sorted, ordered, quantified, and measured. Objects should be organized with labeled bins that are easily accessible and of interest to children. The math center should include age-appropriate games, puzzles, texts and writing materials of varying degrees of difficulty.



## Tip Sheet for Practice and Play: Prekindergarten Sensory Center

## Tip Sheet for Practice and Play: Prekindergarten Writing Center

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In the writing center children have opportunities to use materials to experiment with writing (i.e., drawing, scribbling, making letters and letter-like forms, random letter strings, pretend writing, invented spelling, etc.) . Writing centers are dedicated spaces stocked with paper and writing/drawing materials, but writing opportunities should be encouraged beyond the writing