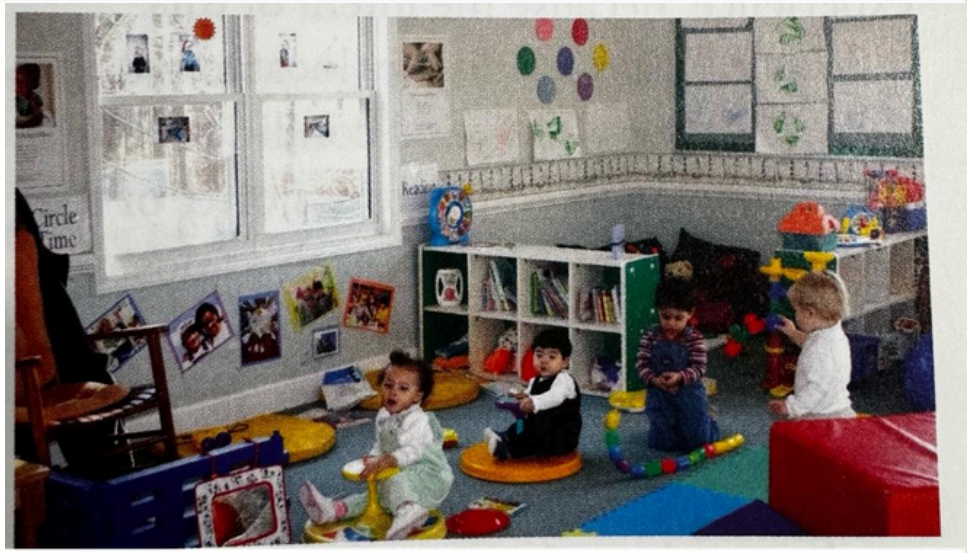
Classroom Learning Centers

12 - 23 Months

Display For Children:

-Many Colorful posters, photographs displayed throughout the room.
-Displays are changed regularly.
-Displays are ineasily beenseen bychildrenandprotectedfrom being torn.
- Child artwork displayed (<u>older toddlers 18-23 Months</u>)

Teacher Tip- Be sure to point out and talk about the display*



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B ook s

In the classroom:

- More than 10 books *accessible* to children throughout the observation.
- Both fiction and factual.
- The books are easily accessible (not overcrowded, out of reach or stacked high).

Teacher Tip- Give positive attention to children who independently choose to use a book.

Use of books with children:

- Use at least 1 book with children informally:
  - To a single child or small group
  - Do not make book time a requirement (children not interested can move away).
  - Make the story interesting not just rote reading.
  - Engage children in the story, point out pictures, expand beyond just reading.

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Fine Motor

Materials:
At least 10 different Choices *accessible.*
- Organized in a way to invite play.

- shape sorting games
- large stringing beads
- big pegs with peg boards
- simple puzzles
- pop beads
- stacking rings
- nesting toys
- medium or large interlocking blocks

Teacher Tip:
-Resolveissuesquicklyinapositivewaywhenissueswithsharing arrive.
- Talk to / interact with children when playing with materials.

Art
18-23 Months Old

This section can be N/A if children are under the age of 24 months and there are no art materials or activities.

If there are art materials available:

- Children are not required to use the material or participate in the activity.

- Supervision is used to stop problems and to ensure safety with mate rials.

- Staff talk to children about what they are doing or ask questions about their art.

- Art activities are process art not product art.

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Music and Movement:

- At least 10 music materials *accessible.*
- Background music does not interfere with other activities (not too loud).
- Some music/movement (dance) activity (finger play, clapping/rhythm, singing)

Teacher Tip: When doing a music or movement activity let uninterested children move away (not required).

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B locks

If children are <u>18 months or older</u> Blocks needs to be its own **<u>Interest center.</u>**

- Enough blocks available for children to play with.
- Block Accessories:
    - small people
    - vehicles
    - animals
    - other accessories to enhance block play, such
    - as road signs, fences, trees, small buildings, etc.
- Blocks and accessories organized.

Teacher Tip:

- Talk about what they are doing.
- Describe their actions.
- Ask questions.

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Dramatic Play

Organized in Interest Center

Many and varied materials *accessible :*

- simple dress-up clothes
- child-sized house furniture
- cooking/eatingequipment(e.g.pots and pans, dishes, cups, play foods)
- dolls
- doll furnishings
- soft animals
- small play buildings with accessories
- toy telephones
- small people figures
- toy animal figures
- toy vehicles

Teacher Tip:

- Interact in a positive way (never negative) with children and materials.

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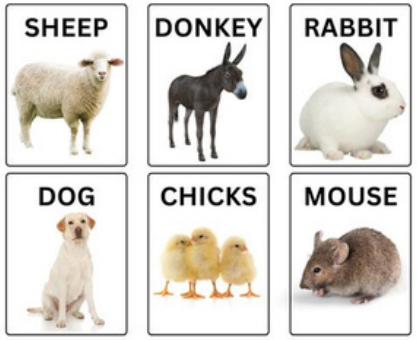
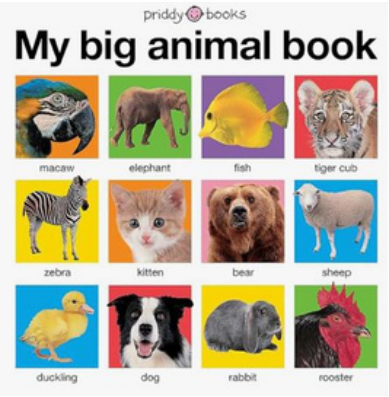
N ature /S cie nce





- Pictures, books or toys that represent nature in a realistic way.
- Opportunity to experience natural objects (3.2).
- Opportunity to experience the outdoor world (5.1)
    - Personal and up-close opportunity with living plants or animals while they are outdoors.
- Living plants or animals indoors or the ability to view them from a window.

Teacher Tip:
- Point out and talk about natural things.
- These interactions need to be positive.
- Children need to be carefully supervised with all nature experiences.

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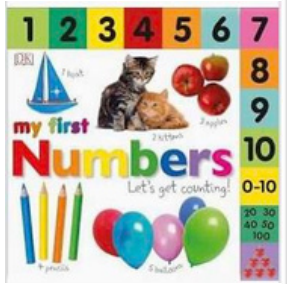
Math and Numbers



- Many math/number materials *accessible:*
(enoughwherechildren donothave tocompete for a toy)
    - number picture books
    - busyboxeswith numbersor shapes
    - nesting cups
    - easy shape puzzles
    - easy shape sorters
    - cash registers and toy telephones with numbers on keys
    - number blocks
    - materials that show both a numeral and the corresponding number of objects
    - stacking rings
    - activity boxes with different shapes to push

Teacher Tip:
- Talk about shapes and sizes with children.
- Point out items and count them.
- Use accurate words like more, less, bigger and smaller when discussing items.
- Sing number songs.

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Promoting acceptance and diversity

- At least 10 positive examples of diversity:
  - Minimum 1 from each category:
    - Books
    - Displayed pictures
    - *Accessible* play materials

This does not include dolls and little people

- Above Materials include at least 4 types of diversity:
    - Race
    - Culture
    - Age
    - Ability
    - Nontraditional gender roles

- Dolls that represent at least 3 races *accessible*.

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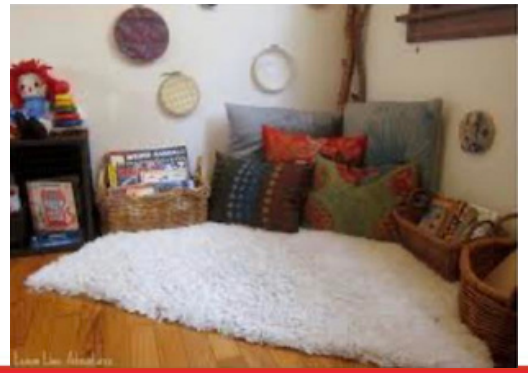
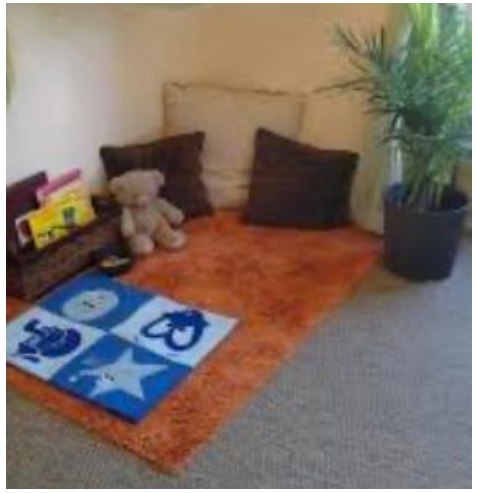
Cozy Area

Interest Center

- Defined space
- Substantial amount of softness
  - Soft rugs
  - Several cushions
  - Mattress
  - Couch
  - Beanbag

  - Out of the way from traffic





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