

Preschool Play-Based Learning Materials You Can Make or Collect

These materials not only provide fun but also promote creativity, problem-solving, and social skills in preschoolers.

All of these activities can be set up from things around you.

Playdough: Create your own playdough using simple ingredients like flour, water, and salt. This can be used for sensory play, modelling, and creating characters.

Play dough recipe

2 ½ cups boiling water

1 ¼ cup salt

1 tablespoon baking powder

5 tablespoons of vegetable oil

2 ½ cup flour

Food coloring

Steps

Place all the ingredients but the food coloring together in a large pot or bowl and stir until somewhat smooth. Place the dough on a table top. Knead the warm dough until it's smooth.

Collect things to use with play dough, e.g. plastic knives and forks, cookie cutters

Recycled Materials: Use items from your home, like cardboard boxes, plastic containers, and fabric scraps. Let children make anything they like from these. Provide cello tape, and as well you can help them put things together when they ask for it, with your stapler.

Sand trays: Fill shallow tubs or trays with sand. Add small toys for children to discover and explore.

Collage: Use scrap paper, paint, dried grasses, feathers and other materials to create collages. That means 'sticking things on' to a piece of paper or cardboard with glue. Every child will have a different picture – not all the same.

Home centre: Collect items like kitchen utensils (forks, spoons), plastic cups, bowls and plates to encourage imaginative play.

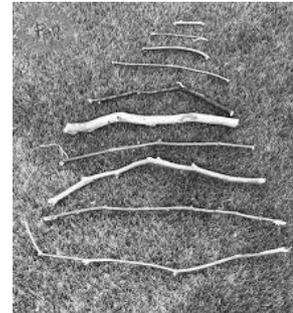
Water play: Provide a tub of water (outside) with jugs, cups and plastic containers of different sizes

Dress ups: Provide pieces of fabric of different colours and patterns, bags and baskets and combine with:

The shop: Set up a pretend shop with empty food packets, clothes and other items. These items are “for sale” with “numbers” on the packets or items to represent prices. Children use any kind of play money such as bottle tops to pay for the goods.

Measuring: Provide your own “rulers” that YOU make from cardboard strips. Add numbers 1-10. Children have to measure things.

Longer or shorter?: Provide sticks of different lengths. Children have to put them in size order, shortest to longest of longest to shortest.



Putting similar things together: Provide stones and small rocks. Children can put the small ones together and the large ones together. Collect shells and let them put similar ones together.

Colour sorting: Cut small pieces of fabric of different colours. Children have to put the pieces together according to the same colour.

Shape activity: Find cardboard and paint each sheet a different colour. Or use colour papers. Cut out different shapes and let the children make up their own picture, sticking on the shapes to paper.