



PLAY MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

WHAT IS DIFFERENT?

The CNCR recognizes the need to provide materials for all types of play. Quiet and active play are identified as specific areas for which materials should be available.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

When children are settling into a new program, they will have varying needs. Many children may wish to be by themselves so they can play independently. They may also need a separate quiet space to observe the other children and activities until they are ready to engage.

As children become used to the program, it is important to meet all of their developmental needs. This can be achieved through the variety of materials available. Having a variety of play materials will diminish the risk of behaviour challenges and keep children engaged.

When children are not familiar with the toys and materials, it helps them to see things that reflect their culture and experiences. It is important to take the time to learn about and locate these types of items and materials, and bring them to your program.

IMPLEMENTATION

Work with your staff to take inventory of your existing play materials and equipment, and consider the following:

- Are the materials and equipment age appropriate?
- Do you have toys and equipment that are open-ended and have a variety of uses?
- How might the play materials and equipment be used by all different age groups in your program?
- Is there a mix of toys and equipment suitable for both quiet and active play?
- Are there enough play materials and equipment for the number of children in your care? (A



good standard is two toys or activities per area for each child in your care.)

- Do the toys and equipment reflect diversity?
- Do you have items to help children become familiar with Canadian life?

It's important to have a variety of open-ended toys and equipment that capture the children's imagination and can be used in a number of ways. Create a balance between quiet and active activities. It is especially important to have a good selection of independent activities prepared in advance to engage short-term children who are not yet ready to integrate into the larger group.

Ideas for Toys and Equipment Reflecting Diversity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Posters reflecting a day in the life of the children in their country• Hats, saris, sombreros• Scarves• Musical instruments• Traditional clothing• Cutlery (e.g. chop sticks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decorative bowls• Handmade toys from other countries (e.g. shakers from bean pods, shakers from bamboo)• Games (e.g. Mancala)• Plastic animals from different farms around the world• Exotic fruits (plastic)

Special information about Long Term Care

You will need a variety of toys and activities so children are kept interested engaged. While children like repetition, if they are playing with the same equipment day in and day out, they may lose interest. This can result in behaviour challenges. Also, as children mature, their interests change and they need new challenges at different developmental levels. Choose toys and equipment that are open-ended and have a variety of play usages.

Special information about Short Term Care

When choosing toys and equipment for Short Term Care, it is important to recognize the variety of ages and interests that you have or may have in your program.



Independent/Parallel Play Activity Ideas	Active/Cooperative Play Activity Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Play dough• Watercolour painting• Puzzles or books• Beading and sorting games• Simple sewing activities• Collage or stickers• Felt of flannel board stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large blocks• Dancing• Pretend play• Throwing, catching, rolling• Swinging, climbing, sliding• Drums, scarves, shakers

- Ensure the safety of the children is not compromised by the mixing of materials for varying age groups.
- It should be possible to use the materials for activities that can be completed in a short period of time, so the child can feel a sense of accomplishment when leaving the program.

Special information about Combined Care

The materials should be set up in a way that allows the long-term and short-term children to have a quiet space or choose to interact with the large group as is appropriate.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

WEB RESOURCES

- Toy Safety Tips

REQUIREMENTS

3-8 Play Materials and Equipment

- a. To meet the needs of the children and carry out planned activities with the children, CNC staff select play materials and equipment that are



2. Age appropriate.
 3. Suitable for both quiet and active play.
 4. Available in sufficient quantity for the children receiving care.
- b. As far as possible, the total supply of play materials reflects diversity, and includes both items chosen to help children become familiar with Canadian life and items reflective of multiple cultures.