

## ***Real and Found Materials***

Instructional goals can often be achieved with “found”, donated or made items. These materials or supplies also add a “real” dimension to the instructional program and can be a cost saving measure. The following is a list of such materials to enhance the instructional centers and activities in Prekindergarten classrooms.

### ***Language and Literacy***

Brochures

Carbon paper

Cereal box books and other class-made books

Cereal box word strips

Clipboards

Computer keyboards

Coupons

Date books or calendars

Fast food logos—signs, books, word cards

Felt/pelton/dryer sheets characters/letters for flannel board

Flannel board made by covering a piece of cardboard box with flannel

Greeting cards

Homemade puppets-socks, gloves, tongue depressors, paper bags, potholders

“Junk” mail, envelopes, canceled stamps, magazine stamps

Hotel note pads

Magazines

Mini-page from newspaper

Misc. paper—receipt forms, order forms, counter checks, etc.

Restaurant menus

School supply catalogs

Spiral notebooks

Teacher recorded story tapes

Typewriters

Telephones

### ***Math***

*Sort or count any of the following*

Acorns, seeds, beans, nuts in shells

Bottle caps

Buttons

Clothespins

Colored pasta

Erasers (in various shapes)

Ice cream sticks

Hair accessories (barrettes, elastic/fabric bands, etc.)

Jewelry

Mittens

Noodles with holes for stringing

Nuts, bolts, washers

Paper clips

Plastic/silk flowers cut from stems

Plastic tokens or chips

Silverware and a tray

Seashells

Socks

*General*

Dominos  
Calculators or adding machines  
File folder games  
Film containers  
Graph paper  
Keys and locks  
Laundry scoops and detergent container tops  
Lotto games made using stickers  
Number cubes/Dice  
Paint samples made into seriation games  
Playing cards  
Plastic jars, containers and lids  
Puzzles made from front of cereal boxes  
Rulers, tape measures  
Scales (balance, bath, food)  
Shoestrings  
Simple cartoons cut into sequence strips  
Timekeepers (stop watch, hour glass, egg/kitchen timer)

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### ***Dramatic Play***

Appliance box (supervise appropriately)  
Backpacks  
Baby clothes  
Brief case and file folders  
Broom  
Camouflage shirts/vests  
Canceled stamps  
Canister set  
Canteens  
Cookbooks  
Coupons  
Costumes  
Clocks (digital, wind-up, wall, desk, etc.)  
Coffee pot  
Diaper bag  
Dinner plates (plastic)  
Dishcloths  
Dishes and utensils  
Disposable diapers  
Dustpan  
Eggbeater  
Egg timer  
Empty food containers  
Empty baby powder containers  
Empty seed packets  
Gardening gloves  
Grocery store advertisements  
Hats/caps  
Headphones  
Keys on key chain  
Lunch boxes  
Measuring cups

Measuring spoons  
Microphones  
Newborn baby clothes  
Old prom dresses, ties, hats,  
shoes, shirts, gloves, costume  
jewelry, pocketbooks, scarves,  
watches, wallets, etc.  
Old typewriters  
Pet dish  
Picnic basket  
Placemats  
Plants  
Plastic mixing bowls with lids  
Plastic baby bottles  
Plastic/silk flowers or plants  
Paper bags (grocery, shopping,  
lunch)  
Play money  
Potholders  
Telephones  
Pots/pans  
Receiving blankets  
Rolling pin  
Rolodex or address book  
Sale flyers/brochures  
Sports outfits (jerseys, helmets,  
shin guards, etc.)  
Sifter  
Steering wheels  
Stuffed animals  
Suitcases  
Teapot  
Toaster or any small appliance—  
cords cut off  
Walkie-talkies  
Wardrobe box from movers

### ***Creative Art***

Aluminum foil  
Balls of any size  
Beads  
Bits of wood and balsa  
Buttons  
Cardboard  
Cardboard tubes  
Carpet pieces  
Cloth, felt, rug, fur scraps  
Clothespins  
Coffee filters  
Colored tape  
Combs  
Computer paper  
Construction paper scraps  
Contact paper  
Cookie cutters  
Cotton balls  
Cotton swabs

Dental floss  
Empty cans for cutters (cover cut  
edges with masking tape)  
Egg cartons  
Elastic  
Fabric scraps  
Fly swatter print  
Food coloring  
Golf tees  
Greeting cards  
Kitchen gadgets  
Liquid starch  
Magazines  
Masking tape  
Matchbox cars  
Men's shirts for smocks  
Muffin tins, frozen food  
containers, saucers for  
printing, mixing, painting  
Newspaper  
Paintbrushes made from rubber  
bands  
Paint in old deodorant bottles  
Paper bags  
Paper clips  
Paper cups  
Paper plates  
Paper punchers  
Paper towels  
Pasta of different shapes/types  
Pine straw paint  
Pipe cleaners  
Plaster of Paris  
Plastic knives  
Push up sticks  
Rolling pins  
Rubber bands  
Sand paper  
Scotch tape  
Sequins  
Shells  
Shoeboxes  
Shoestrings  
Sponges  
Spools  
Spray bottles  
Squeeze bottles  
Staplers  
Stencils made from cardboard  
Straws  
String  
Styrofoam  
Tissue paper scraps  
Toothbrushes  
Wallpaper samples  
Wood scraps

Wrapping paper

Yarn

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### **Blocks**

Blue prints or sample floor plans

Bubble wrap

Carpet pieces

Cardboard tubes/cylinders

Carpenter's apron

Cones from yarn

Construction hats

Empty egg cartons

Fabric tablecloths, small blankets

Graph paper, rulers, pencils

Homemade blocks (oatmeal containers, jewelry boxes, shoeboxes, cereal boxes, etc. wrapped in contact paper or wrapping paper)

Linoleum pieces

License plates

Maps

Paper scraps, masking tape

PVC pipes and connectors

Plastic berry containers

Plastic construction cones

Safety goggles

Shipping tubes (chutes for mini-cars)

Shoeboxes for mini-car garages or tunnels

Slants/ramps covered with different surfaces (corduroy, foil, sandpaper)

Steering wheel

Styrofoam

Thread spools

Tool belt

Wood scraps (sanded smooth)

Work gloves

### **Science**

#### *Sensory Table*

Basters

Bottles

Clear plastic tubing

Corks

Dry beans, rice, oatmeal, potato flakes, lentils, corn

Eggbeaters for water table

Food coloring for water table

Funnels

Garden tools

Ice

Ladles

Measuring cups

Molds

Packing materials (regular or biodegradable)

Pasta (bow tie, seashells, curly, corkscrews)

Plastic cups and bowls

Serving spoons

Scoops  
Short length of garden hose  
Sifters  
Sponges  
Small spray bottles  
Strainers  
Tongs and tweezers  
Whisks  
Watering cans  
**General**  
Air pump  
Bark  
Binoculars, bird feeder, birdseed, bird book (for playground or to place outside the classroom window)  
Bug boxes made from old boxes  
Compass  
Dental molds  
"Discovery" bottles made using plastic bottles  
Fabric with different textures (velvet, satin, burlap, corduroy, etc.)  
Field guide books  
Flashlight  
Ice cream sticks for labeling plants  
Kaleidoscopes  
Keys  
Leaves  
Mineral samples  
Moss samples  
Magnifying glasses  
Nuts in shells (pecans, walnuts, coconuts, etc.)  
Non-toxic plants  
Outdoor weather thermometer  
Perfume samples/strips from magazines  
Pinwheels  
Pinecones and pine needles  
Rocks/stones  
Sandpaper in a variety of grades  
Seashells  
Seedling trays and seeds  
Snakeskins  
Stethoscope  
Sound games (film containers filled with various items such as dry beans, dice, bells, dry rice, etc.)  
Science magazines (examples: *National Geographic*, *Astronomy*, *Ranger Rick*, *Kids Discover*)  
Terrarium made from a soft drink bottle  
Windssocks, pinwheels, wind chimes  
x-rays

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### **Music**

Aluminum pie pans  
Authentic maracas  
Bells on pipe cleaners  
Crepe paper streamers

Dress scarves or strips of fabric for dancing  
Drums made from coffee cans  
Maracas - use old soft drink bottles, fill with rice, beans, etc. and glue tops on  
Music recordings (various types)  
Pots with wooden spoons  
Rain sticks made from shipping or gift wrap tubes  
Rhythm sticks made from wooden dowels  
Streamers made from fabric hair bands and thin satin ribbons  
Streamers attached to dowel sticks, tongue depressors or cardboard tubes

### ***Outdoor***

Blanket/tablecloth/flat sheet (in place of parachute)  
Blankets to sit on (read books, work on puzzles, etc.)  
Bowling pins made from empty oatmeal containers  
Cheerleader pom-poms  
Concrete culvert section (tunnel)  
Empty appliance boxes (supervise appropriately)  
Hammers, nails, goggles, and a tree stump (woodworking)  
Frisbees  
Kites and string  
Magnifiers  
Newspaper to be held for children to run through  
Old tires for climbing through, hopping in, etc. (be sure to drill drain holes)  
Photography paper to expose in the light  
Plastic construction cones  
Potato sacks (burlap or canvas)  
Racquetball rackets and rubber balls (safety goggles, too)  
Rowboat (imaginative play)  
Small boxes (for throwing small ball and bean bags)  
Squirt bottles  
Traffic signs made from new toilet plungers and cardboard signs  
Tent (offer appropriate supervision)  
Wicker baskets (to balance and carry on heads)