

Setting Up a Classroom for 20 Preschool Children

This inventory is meant to guide programs in selecting materials, supplies, and equipment for a preschool classroom. Volume and page number information in parentheses (e.g., Vol. 1, pp. 56–58) refers to specific locations in *The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool* foundation volumes. Please refer to these volumes for more information about the number and types of materials, supplies, and equipment that should be available to the children at any one time.

Items	Quantities
GENERAL	
Equipment (Vol. 1, pp. 56–58)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Coat lockers/cubbies for children’s belongings and coats	Sufficient for number of children in group, e.g., four 5-unit lockers
<input type="checkbox"/> Storage cabinet for teacher supplies	1 or 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Tables (combination of rectangular and round, seating 4 or 6 children each)	At least 5 (for Art, Toys and Games, Library, Discovery, and Cooking areas)
<input type="checkbox"/> Chairs of varying heights (e.g., 9”–11” seat height)	24
<input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin board for family communications and other notices	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Instant or digital camera	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Child-size serving bowls, utensils, pitchers, platters (for family-style meals)	8 to 10 each
<input type="checkbox"/> Child-size dishes, cups, eating utensils (for family-style meals)	24 each
<input type="checkbox"/> Cots or sleeping mats	20
<input type="checkbox"/> Storage shelves, 30" or 36" high	(See interest areas.)
Supplies	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult staplers	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult scissors	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Pencil sharpener	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Camera supplies (film or printer ink, photo paper)	Ongoing supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup supplies	Ongoing supply
INTEREST AREAS	
Blocks—Basic (Vol. 2, pp. 7–13)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Area rug (low pile)	1 to cover block area
<input type="checkbox"/> Shelves to hold full unit block set and props	2 to 3
<input type="checkbox"/> Storage unit for hollow blocks (optional)	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Full unit block set	390 blocks (25 shapes)

Setting Up a Classroom for 20 Preschool Children, continued

Items	Quantities
At least one other type of block:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hollow block set (if space and funds allow)	48–54 pieces, 6 shapes
<input type="checkbox"/> Brick cardboard blocks	44 piece set
<input type="checkbox"/> Foam blocks	1 set
<input type="checkbox"/> Large plastic blocks	1 set
<input type="checkbox"/> PVC pipes and connectors	
Props from three or more categories:	
<input type="checkbox"/> People props (multi-ethnic family and community sets)	1 set each
<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic signs	1 to 2 sets
<input type="checkbox"/> Farm animals, zoo animals, pets	1 set each
<input type="checkbox"/> Small transportation vehicles (cars, trucks, buses, boats)	Several of each
<input type="checkbox"/> Wooden train set with trains	1 set
<input type="checkbox"/> Bins or plastic tubs for storing props	Several of each
<input type="checkbox"/> Paper, markers	Sufficient supply for group
<input type="checkbox"/> Children’s picture books related to construction, buildings, or other types of block play	Several, appropriate for group and topics of interest to the children
Blocks—Optional Enhancements	
<input type="checkbox"/> Accessory block set (e.g., window and door blocks, architectural unit blocks, castle accessory blocks)	1 set each, as appropriate for group and topics of interest to the children
<input type="checkbox"/> Dollhouse with furniture	1 set
<input type="checkbox"/> Props and accessories related to children’s play or study topics (e.g., telephone wire, paper towel rolls, rubber tubing, tile squares, shells, pebbles, cardboard boxes, play money, cardboard and other packaging materials, old blueprints)	As appropriate for group and topics of interest to the children
Dramatic Play—Basic (Vol. 2, pp. 37–41)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Homelike furniture: small table and 4 chairs; child-size refrigerator, stove, sink, hutch, chest of drawers, small couch, full-length mirror, doll bed, high chair, doll carriage or stroller, child-size cleaning set (broom, mop, dustpan, etc.)	1 each
<input type="checkbox"/> Pots, pans, dishes, and cooking utensils	1–2 sets
<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic food; empty food packaging representing nutritious foods from different cultures	As appropriate for group and topics of interest to the children
<input type="checkbox"/> Dress-up clothes (e.g., hats, shoes, boas, jewelry, pocketbooks, briefcases)	Several items in good condition

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Items	Quantities
❑ Props that represent different occupations and cultures, especially those of the children's family members (e.g., uniforms, hats, fabrics, jewelry)	At least 3 or more
❑ Storage units or stands for dress-up clothes	1 to 2
❑ Dolls representing different ethnic groups with clothes and blankets	At least 4 to 6
❑ Telephones	1 to 2, standard and/or mobile
❑ Calendars, memo pads, address book, phone book, pencils, cookbooks, message board and marker	As appropriate for group and topics of interest to the children
❑ Materials to add homelike touches (e.g., curtains, tablecloth, photographs, small rug, plants)	As appropriate for group and topics of interest to the children
❑ Materials for creating new settings for dramatic play throughout the year (e.g., <u>supermarket</u> : tables or crates to create sections of store, signs for store sections, cash register, paper bags for groceries, crayons and markers, price tags, paper or plastic money, coupons, supermarket ad; <u>post office</u> : telephone books, zip code directories, junk mail, letters, greeting cards, envelopes, stationery, ink pads and stamps, stickers, address labels, letter-weighing scale, clock)	As appropriate for group and topics of interest to the children
Dramatic Play—Optional Enhancements	
❑ Additional child-sized furniture: washer and dryer, microwave oven, vanity with mirror	1 each
❑ Puppet theater and hand puppets	1 theater, 1 or more puppet sets
Toys and Games (Vol. 2, pp. 59–65)	
❑ Shelves to hold toys and games	2 to 3
❑ Puzzles (with and without knobs; wooden, rubber, and cardboard; jumbo and regular size)	Approximately 40 puzzles (to be rotated), varying 5- to 30-piece puzzles
❑ Puzzle racks	Sufficient to hold all puzzles displayed
Self-correcting toys:	
❑ Self-help skill frames: buttoning, zipping, tying, snapping	At least 1 set
❑ Graduated rings that stack on a cone	At least 1 set
❑ Nesting boxes and cups	At least 1 set
❑ Three-dimensional shape sorters	At least 1 set

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Items	Quantities
Open-ended toys:	At least a basic set
<input type="checkbox"/> Interlocking bricks, figurines, and props	2 to 4 sets
<input type="checkbox"/> Colored wooden or plastic cubes	2 to 4 sets
<input type="checkbox"/> Parquetry blocks	2 to 4 sets
<input type="checkbox"/> Interlocking links and cubes	At least 2 sets
<input type="checkbox"/> Beads and sewing cards with yarn or string	4 to 6 sets
<input type="checkbox"/> Pegs and pegboards	At least 1 set
<input type="checkbox"/> Felt board and felt shapes, numbers, letters	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tangrams	2 to 4 sets
<input type="checkbox"/> Geoboards	4 to 6
<input type="checkbox"/> Collectibles (e.g., keys, bottle caps, buttons, nuts and bolts, erasers)	3 or more collections
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative games (e.g., lotto and other concentration games, card games, board games)	Sufficient collection so that materials may be rotated regularly; 3 or more should be available at one time
<input type="checkbox"/> Literacy-related toys and games (e.g., magnetic letters and board, matching and sorting alphabet games, puzzles, rhyming games, alphabet beads)	3 or more
<input type="checkbox"/> Bins/plastic tubs/baskets for storing toys and collections	8 to 12
Art (Vol. 2, pp. 81–94)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Washable floor covering	Sufficient to cover area(s) under easels and table
<input type="checkbox"/> Shelves to hold art materials in labeled containers	1 to 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Easels with paint wells	1 or 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Sturdy workbench with a C-clamp or vise	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Drying rack (or other device for drying children's artwork)	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Materials to paint on (e.g., manila and assorted colored paper, foil, cardboard, newspaper, butcher paper, wallpaper)	Sufficient supply for 8–10 children each day, every day; 3 or more types of materials must be available to children at one time

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Items	Quantities
Materials to paint with:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Liquid tempera paint	Ongoing supply of 8–10 colors
<input type="checkbox"/> Finger paint	Ongoing supply of 8–10 colors
<input type="checkbox"/> Watercolors	10 to 12 sets
<input type="checkbox"/> Paintbrushes	20 to 24
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponges (plain and assorted shapes)	Ongoing supply
Materials to draw on:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Assorted paper, card stock, etc.	Sufficient supply for 8–10 children each day, every day
<input type="checkbox"/> Chalkboards	6 to 8
Materials to draw with:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Standard and large crayons	10 to 12 sets; ongoing supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Water-based markers	10 to 12 sets; ongoing supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Colored chalk	10 to 12 packs
Materials for cutting and pasting:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Child-size scissors, including squeezable and left-handed	10 to 12 sets; ongoing supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Glue, glue sticks, paste, tape	Ongoing supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Collage materials—fabric, buttons, feathers, yarn, ribbon, acorns, bottle caps, etc.	Ongoing supply
Materials for molding:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonhardening and water-based modeling clay	5 pounds, 5 colors; ongoing supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Molding dough	Ongoing supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Putty	Ongoing supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay hammers and rolling pins	6 to 10
<input type="checkbox"/> Cookie cutters	4 to 6 varied sets

Setting Up a Classroom for 20 Preschool Children, continued

Items	Quantities
Materials for three-dimensional constructions:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soft wood and assorted objects for woodworking (e.g., nails, knobs, wooden wheels, leather scraps)	Ongoing supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Real woodworking tools (e.g., child-size hammers, saws, hand drills)	1 of each
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety goggles	At least 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Craft sticks	Ongoing supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Pipe cleaners	Ongoing supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Wire	Ongoing supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Dowels	Ongoing supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Paper clips, brads, stapler and staples, masking tape, transparent tape, rubber bands	Ongoing supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Bins or plastic tubs for storing art materials	6 to 8
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's books about art and artists	
Library—Basic (Vol. 2, pp. 117–123)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Area rug (especially if used for meetings)	Sufficient to cover area
<input type="checkbox"/> Furnishings to make the space comfortable and attractive (e.g., loveseat, large pillows, beanbag chairs, child-size rocker, stuffed animals, dolls)	3 or more items
<input type="checkbox"/> Cassette player, CD player, or audio player with headphones	1 player with at least 2 headphones
<input type="checkbox"/> Story tapes, CDs, or digital media	15–20
<input type="checkbox"/> Bookshelf to display books facing outward	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Small table and chairs for writing	1 table, at least 2 chairs
<input type="checkbox"/> Shelf for writing materials	1
Materials to write on:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Assorted lined and unlined paper, card stock, envelopes, stationery, index cards	Ongoing supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Chalkboards	6 to 8
<input type="checkbox"/> Whiteboards	6 to 8
<input type="checkbox"/> Magic slates	4 to 6
Materials to write with:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Standard and large pencils	10 to 12 packs
<input type="checkbox"/> Water-based markers (thick and thin, variety of colors)	10 to 12 sets; ongoing supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Colored and white chalk	10 to 12 packs

Setting Up a Classroom for 20 Preschool Children, continued

Items	Quantities
Letter and word manipulatives:	3 or more types
<input type="checkbox"/> Alphabet, word, or numeral cards	4 to 6 sets
<input type="checkbox"/> Alphabet stamps and ink pads	2 sets
<input type="checkbox"/> Name cards	One per child
<input type="checkbox"/> Letter tiles	4 to 6 sets
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's books (story books, nursery rhymes, informational, predictable, alphabet, and number books) showing various cultures and backgrounds	100 in collection with at least 25 books displayed regularly
<input type="checkbox"/> Story retelling props (e.g., flannel board and stories, magnetic board, costumes for dramatization)	10 to 20
<input type="checkbox"/> Hand puppets	1 to 2 sets
<input type="checkbox"/> Tape, glue stick, paste, paper, scissors, paper clips, construction paper, index cards, stationery and envelopes	As appropriate for group and children's writing and book-repair activities
Library—Optional Enhancements	
<input type="checkbox"/> Big books	15 to 20
<input type="checkbox"/> Big book stand	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Design stencils	2 sets
<input type="checkbox"/> Puppet theater	1
Discovery (Vol. 2, pp. 146–153)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Shelf to hold displays, collections, and discovery materials	1 to 2
Basic tools:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnifying glasses	4 to 6
<input type="checkbox"/> Balance scales	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Tweezers	4 to 6
<input type="checkbox"/> Tongs	4 to 6
<input type="checkbox"/> Eyedroppers	4 to 6
<input type="checkbox"/> Containers for sorting, classifying, mixing, and measuring	6 to 8
<input type="checkbox"/> Funnels	2 to 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Sieves	2 to 4

Setting Up a Classroom for 20 Preschool Children, continued

Items	Quantities
Materials to explore life science:	
❑ Stethoscopes	2
❑ Animals and their housing (e.g., fish and aquarium, rabbit and cage, ants and farm)	1 to 2
❑ X-rays of bones or teeth	1 to 2
❑ Plants, seeds, bulbs, and soil	Ongoing supply
Physical science materials:	
❑ Magnets of all shapes and sizes	4 to 6
❑ Metal and nonmetal objects for exploration with magnets	Assorted collections
❑ Mirrors of different shapes and sizes	4 to 6
❑ Pulleys, gears, and wheels	2 to 4 each
❑ Lenses	4 to 6 varied lengths
❑ Balls of various sizes, densities, weights, and surface materials	4 to 6 assorted types
❑ Prisms or “sun catchers”	2 to 4
❑ “Discovery bottles” filled with different liquids and floating objects	2 to 4
❑ Kaleidoscopes	2 to 4
❑ Thermometer	2
❑ Flashlights	2 to 4
❑ Broken mechanical objects or small appliances to take apart	1 or 2 at a time
Earth science materials:	
❑ Rocks and soil	Assorted collections
❑ Shells	Assorted collections
❑ Clear plastic tubing	2 to 4
❑ Straws	Ongoing supply
❑ Sand, clay, and water	Ongoing supply
❑ Materials for sensory tubs or tables	Ongoing supply
❑ Bins, plastic tubs, or trays for storing discovery materials	8 to 10
❑ Books, magazines, and posters related to discovery displays	4 to 6
❑ Pens, markers, paper	Ongoing supply
❑ Children’s books about scientific concepts related to current displays	As appropriate

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Items	Quantities
Sand and Water (Vol. 2, pp. 169–174)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sand table with cover	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Water table with cover	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic smocks	6 to 8
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual plastic tubs in lieu of sand and water tables	4 to 6
<input type="checkbox"/> Sterilized sand or sand substitute	Ongoing supply
Props for sand play:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Scoops and hand shovels	4 to 6
<input type="checkbox"/> Buckets and other containers	2 to 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Measuring cups and spoons	2 to 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Molds	1 to 2 sets
<input type="checkbox"/> Sieves	2 to 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Funnels	2 to 4
Props for water play: plastic buckets, measuring cups, measuring spoons, basters, funnels, squirt bottles, strainer, water wheel, eyedroppers, whisks, eggbeaters	
<input type="checkbox"/> Measuring cups	2 to 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Buckets and other containers	2 to 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Funnel	2 to 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Squirt bottle and baster	4 to 6
<input type="checkbox"/> Water wheel	1 to 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Whisk and eggbeater	2 to 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Strainer	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Bins or plastic tubs for storing props and collectibles	2 to 3
<input type="checkbox"/> Child-size cleaning set (mop, sponges, broom, dustpan)	1 each
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's books about topics related to children's play in this area	As appropriate

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Items	Quantities
Music and Movement—Basic (Vol. 2, pp. 191–193)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Shelf, table, or other furniture for storing musical instruments, tapes, and CDs	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Easy-to-operate tape recorder, CD player, and/or audio player	1 to 2
<input type="checkbox"/> CDs, cassette tapes, digital media, and/or albums (children's, international, classical, country and western, folk, jazz, rock, bluegrass, reggae, ragtime, other types of music)	20 or more
<input type="checkbox"/> Rhythm instruments such as sticks, sand blocks, triangle, drum, cymbals, tambourine, maracas, tone block, xylophone	3 or more types
<input type="checkbox"/> Dance and movement props (e.g., streamers, scarves, fabric remnants, feathers, pom-poms)	3 or more types
<input type="checkbox"/> Tumbling mats	Sufficient to cover floor space for small group of children
Cooking—Basic (Vol. 2, pp. 211–216)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Shelf for storing cooking materials	1 to 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Large pegboard for storing utensils, measuring cups	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic or metal bowls, liquid and dry measuring cups, measuring spoons	1 set each
<input type="checkbox"/> Placemats, dishes, flatware	20 or more
<input type="checkbox"/> Funnel, whisk, eggbeater, peelers, cookie cutters, large spoons, can opener, small pitchers	1 each
<input type="checkbox"/> Wooden spoons, tongs, spatulas	2 to 3 each
<input type="checkbox"/> Aprons, pot holders, dish towels, sponges, trivets	3 to 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Pots, pans, cookie sheets, baking tins	4 to 6
<input type="checkbox"/> Cutting board, knives	2 to 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Sifter, grater, colander	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Laminated recipe cards with pictures and words	4–6 sets; increase throughout the year
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooking ingredients and supplies such as foil, wax paper, zipper-type bags	Ongoing supply, based on recipes selected
Cooking—Optional Enhancements	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooling rack	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Small appliances (e.g., electric frying pan, toaster oven, griddle, blender, juicer)	As determined by staff

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Items	Quantities
Technology—Basic (Vol. 2, pp. 237–243)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Shelf for storing technology materials	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer stand or child-size table with 2 chairs	1 to 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer with monitor, keyboard, mouse, speakers, or tablet	1 to 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Printer	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Media storage containers	2 to 3
<input type="checkbox"/> CDs, DVDs, and flash drives	Ongoing supply
<input type="checkbox"/> Software	10–12 programs
<input type="checkbox"/> Paper for printing	Ongoing supply
Technology—Optional Enhancements	
<input type="checkbox"/> Scanner	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer camera	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer microscope	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Adaptive devices for children with disabilities	As appropriate for child or children
Outdoors (Vol. 2, pp. 259–271)	
Equipment for climbing, swinging, sliding, balancing, and riding wheeled toys:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Balance beam or climbing tunnel	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Slide	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Climber (may include ramp, platform, slide, bridge, etc.)	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Swings	1 set
<input type="checkbox"/> Tricycles	4 to 6
<input type="checkbox"/> Helmets	8 to 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Wagons	2 to 4
Materials for activities such as running, catching and throwing, kicking, and jumping:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Balls (assorted sizes)	6 to 8
<input type="checkbox"/> Hoops	6 to 8
<input type="checkbox"/> Jump ropes	3 to 6
<input type="checkbox"/> Basketball goal	1 to 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Beanbag toss and beanbags	1 set

Setting Up a Classroom for 20 Preschool Children, continued

Items	Quantities
Materials for nature explorations:	
❑ Shovels, rakes, hoes with short handles	4 to 6 each
❑ Child-size garden gloves	4 to 6 pairs
❑ Seeds or plants	Ongoing supply
❑ Watering cans	4 to 6
❑ Potting soil	Ongoing supply
❑ Magnifying glasses	4 to 6
❑ Bug box, bird feeder	2 to 4
❑ Buckets, mixing bowls, pails with handles, funnels, sifters	4 to 6 each
❑ Large paintbrushes	4 to 6 each
Materials for creative experiences:	
❑ Outdoor easel	1 to 2
❑ Paint cups and paintbrushes	1 to 2 sets
❑ Sidewalk chalk	Ongoing supply
❑ PVC pipes and other loose parts for construction	
❑ Movement and dance props: ribbons, scarves, streamers	1 per child
❑ Dramatic play props: road signs, traffic cones, props to transform wheeled toys into ambulances, fire trucks, mail trucks	Several of each
❑ Large parachute	1