

## Materials That Appeal to Children's Senses

### Aromatic materials and experiences<sup>6</sup>

- Large wooden balls and boxes
- Wool, felt, and leather balls
- Sturdy rubber balls and teething rings
- Tennis balls
- Sturdily constructed small cloth bags filled with common household spices
- Wicker baskets and woven mats
- Bread dough, play dough, and clay
- Shaving cream
- Newspaper
- Flowering plants (nontoxic)
- Outdoor play where children can smell grass, dirt, leaves, bark, flowers, rain
- Smells of food being prepared and cooked
- A variety of foods to eat and smell
- Empty spice bottles (cinnamon, garlic, cloves)

### Sound-producing materials and experiences

- Toy rattles, dried gourds
- Firmly sealed film cans or tins containing beans, rice, pea gravel, water
- Rain sticks
- Castanets
- Bells
- Xylophones, metallophones
- Pan lids

- Cookie tins
- Metal juice-can lids, metal and wooden spoons and bowls
- Crinkly paper
- Wind chimes, ticking clocks, chiming clocks, music boxes
- Musical recordings
- Singing
- Outdoor play and sounds
- Banners, streamers that flap in the breeze
- Sound of rain on the roof and windows
- Jumping and rolling in piles of dry leaves

### Materials to touch, taste, and look at

#### *Objects from nature*

- Pine cones (closed "petals")
- Rocks
- Sturdy shells
- Sticks and twigs
- Dried gourds
- Big feathers
- Pumice stone
- Fresh avocado pits
- Natural sponge
- Pieces of loofah
- Lemons, apples
- Edible flowers

<sup>6</sup>Check with families regarding children's allergies to foods, scents, and fabrics.

## Materials That Appeal to Children's Senses (cont.)

### *Objects made from natural materials*

- Marble "eggs"
- Small baskets
- Bottle corks
- Small raffia mats
- Natural-bristle brushes with wooden handles (for nails, teeth, shaving, shoes, house painting, cosmetics)
- Prisms
- Stained-glass windows

### *Wooden objects*

- Small boxes
- Small drum on wooden frame
- Rattles
- Castanets
- Clothespins (peg or pincer grip type)
- Large, strung, colored beads
- Inch cubes
- Spools
- Spoons, spatulas
- Egg cups
- Small bowls

### *Metal objects*

- Measuring spoons
- Spoons
- Small whisks
- Keys on a chain or ring
- Small tins
- Small pot-pie tins
- Lemon squeezer
- Small funnels

- Brass curtain rings
- Garlic press
- Whistle
- Slip-on bangle bracelets
- Bottle brush
- Small metal mirrors
- Key rings linked together
- Large bells, attached to wraparound band (in musical instrument catalogs)
- Tea strainers
- Lengths of chain
- Bicycle bell
- Tea infuser
- Aluminum foil

### *Objects of leather, cloth, rubber, fur*

- Leather purse
- Small leather bag or key case with zipper
- Leather eyeglass case
- High-bouncer balls
- Lengths of rubber tubing
- Bath/drain plugs with chains
- Velvet powder puffs
- Fur ball
- Pieces of felt in assorted colors, sizes, shapes
- Small rag dolls
- Small teddy bears
- Balls of yarn
- Potholders
- Bandanas

## Materials That Appeal to Children's Senses (cont.)

*Objects of leather, cloth, rubber,  
fur (cont.)*

- Silk scarves
- Short lengths of blanket satin, lace
- Tennis balls
- Golf balls

*Paper/cardboard items*

- Small notebooks or note pads
- Wax paper
- Small boxes
- Paper towel/cardboard tubes
- Board books
- Post cards
- Foil paper
- Cardboard boxes

## Materials and Equipment That Support Movement

### When children are moving their limbs, turning themselves over, and rolling, they need

- ❑ Safe, soft spaces on the floor and ground for lying, turning over, rolling
- ❑ Interesting, graspable toys, materials, and people to reach for, hold on to, let go of

### When children are sitting, they need

- ❑ Safe, comfortable places to sit on a variety of physical levels with a variety of vistas, both indoors and outdoors
- ❑ Very low tables to use while sitting on the floor
- ❑ Materials to explore, grasp, bang, and drop while sitting

### When children are scooting and crawling, they need

- ❑ Safe open spaces and pathways for scooting and crawling on the floor and ground
- ❑ Ramps and steps for crawling to different levels
- ❑ Tunnels to crawl through
- ❑ Boxes or cartons and other cozy spaces to crawl into
- ❑ A variety of appealing materials and vistas to crawl toward
- ❑ Balls to crawl after

### When children are cruising, they need

- ❑ Sturdy, well-anchored equipment to hold on to and lean against as they pull themselves up to stand (chairs, benches, tables, handrails, handholds)
- ❑ Sturdy push toys with long handles (to push, lean against, and help with balance)

### When children are walking, riding, and rocking, they need

- ❑ Clear pathways with safe surfaces for walking both indoors and outdoors
- ❑ Ramps and steps with railings to practice walking up and down
- ❑ Wagons and sleds big enough to pull and ride in
- ❑ Rocking chairs, rocking boats, rocking horses, and low deep hammocks
- ❑ A variety of riding toys to sit on and propel by scooting with their feet

### When children are climbing, jumping, and running, they need

- ❑ Safe spaces both indoors and out for climbing, jumping, running
- ❑ A variety of safe climbers, slides, steps, and ladders
- ❑ A variety of levels and padded landing areas for safe jumping
- ❑ Interesting things to run toward, around, up and down (trees, boulders, benches, bales of straw, ramps, hills)

## What Caregivers Need in the Outdoor Play Yard for Infants and Toddlers

### Natural features

- Shade trees
- Shrubs, grasses, flowers
- Raised vegetable/herb garden
- Hill
- Shallow water course
- Stepping stones
- Soft surfaces (sand or rubber matting) under climbers and swings

### Movement materials (infants)

- Gentle slope
- Tree stump rounds
- Logs
- Railroad ties or landscape timbers
- Flat rocks
- Steps
- Large, inflated inner tube
- Low platform
- Canvas- or vinyl-covered mattress
- Bench or wagon (to pull up to stand)
- Boxes, cartons
- Tunnels
- Tents
- Infant swing seat

### Things that move in the wind

- Banners, streamers
- Foil pie tins
- Wind chimes

### Crawling surfaces

- Grass
- Aromatic-herb ground cover
- Sand
- Leaves
- Decking
- Pathways of flagstone, clay, concrete, wood

### Water play materials (mobile infants)

- Small pails, pans for water
- Floating objects

### Things to climb (toddlers)

- Toddler climbing structure (over soft surface)
- Slide

### Things to get inside of (toddlers)

- Sturdy corrugated boxes, cartons
- Tunnels
- Low-hanging trees or shrubs

### Things to balance on (toddlers)

- Tree stump rounds
- Flat rocks
- Planks, flat boards (1" × 12")
- Balance beam on or very close to the ground

### Swings (toddlers)

- Soft-seated swings (over soft surface)
- Very low cloth hammocks (over soft surface)

## What Caregivers Need in the Outdoor Play Yard for Infants and Toddlers (cont.)

### Materials for sand play and water play (toddlers)

- Large sandbox
- Buckets and other containers
- Shovels, scoops, funnels, sieves
- Plastic dump trucks
- Shells, sticks, stones
- Water source

### Balls (toddlers)

- Beach balls
- Rubber playground balls, 10" and 12"
- Tennis balls
- Small rubber balls toddlers can hold in one hand

### Riding/rocking toys (toddlers)

- Rocking toys (rocking horse, rocking boat)
- Riding toys (to sit on, scoot with feet, no steering mechanism) for younger toddlers
- Riding toys (to sit on, scoot with feet, simple steering) for older toddlers
- Horns and bells for riding toys
- Small tricycles (10" wheels) for toddlers approaching age three

### Push and pull toys (toddlers)

- Wagons
- Lightweight wheelbarrows, garden carts, shopping carts, baby buggies
- Plastic sleds

### Loose materials (toddlers)

- Paints and paper
- Colored chalk
- Bubble-blowing materials
- Beanbags
- Blankets for tents
- Blankets or mats for young infants

### Storage

- Shed
- Watertight storage box
- Carts/baskets, bags, wheeled luggage, buckets with handles for transporting materials from indoors

### Transport vehicles (infants)

- Wagons
- Strollers

### Surfaces/play space boundaries (infants)

- Blankets or mats to lie on
- Low fence or wall of wood, stone, brick
- Low shrubs
- Large bolsters (canvas- or vinyl-covered)