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 Pre-K classrooms. This list is not an all-inclusive list and the items listed are examples of real and found materials that can be used in the classroom. The safety of these items should be considered when placing them in the classroom for student use.

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/pelon/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
Telephones

Math

For sorting and counting
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.)
Mittens
Noodles with holes for stringing
Paper clips

Plastic/silk flowers cut from stems
Plastic tokens or chips
Silverware and a tray
Seashells
Socks
General

- Dominoes
- Calculators or adding machines
- File folder games
- Film containers
- Graph paper
- Laundry scoops and detergent container tops
- Lotto games made using stickers
- Number cubes/Dice
- Paint samples/Dice
- 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, kitchen)

Dramatic Play

- 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
- 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.
- Pet dish
- Picnic basket
- Placemats
- Plants
- Platic mixing bowls with lids
- Plastic baby bottles
- Plastic/silk flowers or plants
- Paper bags (grocery, shopping)
- Play money
- Potholders
- Telephones
- Pots/pan
- 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 (cover cut edges with masking tape)
- Egg cartons
- Elastic
- Fabric scraps
- Fly swatter print
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food coloring</th>
<th>Paper punchers</th>
<th>Sponges</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Golf tees</td>
<td>Paper towels</td>
<td>Spools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greeting cards</td>
<td>Pasta of different shapes/types</td>
<td>Spray bottles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kitchen gadgets</td>
<td>Pipe cleaners</td>
<td>Squeeze bottles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liquid starch</td>
<td>Plaster of Paris</td>
<td>Stencils made from cardboard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magazines</td>
<td>Plastic knives</td>
<td>Straws</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masking tape</td>
<td>Push up sticks</td>
<td>String</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matchbox cars</td>
<td>Rolling pins</td>
<td>Styrofoam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s shirts for smocks</td>
<td>Rubber bands</td>
<td>Tissue paper scraps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muffin tins</td>
<td>Sand paper</td>
<td>Toothbrushes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newspaper</td>
<td>Scotch tape</td>
<td>Wallpaper samples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint in old deodorant bottles</td>
<td>Sequins</td>
<td>Wood scraps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper bags</td>
<td>Shells</td>
<td>Wrapping paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper clips</td>
<td>Shoeboxes</td>
<td>Yarn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper cups</td>
<td>Shoestrings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper plates</td>
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</tbody>
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**Blocks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blue prints or sample floor plans</th>
<th>PVC pipes and connectors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bubble wrap</td>
<td>Plastic berry containers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpet pieces</td>
<td>Plastic construction cones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardboard tubes/cylinders</td>
<td>Safety goggles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter's apron</td>
<td>Shipping tubes (chutes for mini-cars)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cones from yarn</td>
<td>Shoeboxes for mini-car garages or tunnels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction hats</td>
<td>Slants/ramps covered with different surfaces (corduroy, foil, sandpaper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empty egg cartons</td>
<td>Steering wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabric tablecloths, small blankets</td>
<td>Styrofoam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graph paper, rulers, pencils</td>
<td>Thread spools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homemade blocks (oatmeal containers, jewelry boxes, shoeboxes, cereal boxes, etc. wrapped in contact paper or wrapping paper)</td>
<td>Tool belt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linoleum pieces</td>
<td>Wood scraps (sanded smooth)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maps</td>
<td>Work gloves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper scraps, masking tape</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Science**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moss samples</th>
<th>Seedling trays and seeds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Magnifying glasses</td>
<td>Snakeskins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuts in shells (pecans, walnuts, coconuts, etc.)</td>
<td>Stethoscope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-toxic plants</td>
<td>Sound games (film containers filled with various items such as dry beans, dice, bells, dry rice, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor weather thermometer</td>
<td>Science magazines (examples: <em>National Geographic, Ranger Rick, Kids Discover</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinwheels</td>
<td>Terrarium made from a soft drink bottle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinecones and pine needles</td>
<td>Windsocks, pinwheels, wind chimes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rocks/stones</td>
<td>x-rays</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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

Tree 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
Leaves
Mineral samples
Music

Aluminum pie pans
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)
Frisbees
Kites and string
Magnifiers
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)

This list is not exhaustive nor is it intended to endorse specific products or suppliers.

Please refer to GELDS (Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards) for specific standards and indicators.