



General considerations:

- Prevent clutter.
- Ensure that classroom materials are safe and clean.
- Have specified storage that is labeled so that children know where materials belong.
- Have sufficient materials available so that children can freely choose.
- Arrange materials so that children may have access and return them independently to their proper place.
- Arrange materials so children have opportunities to work together.
- Use authentic or “real” materials.
- Rotate materials so that children have access to many different materials.
- Introduce new materials.

Characteristics of children:

- Match materials to the children’s interests.
- Select open-ended materials that allow children to use multiple means of representation, multiple means of expression, and multiple means of participation.
- Use materials that represent cultural, linguistic, gender, and ability diversity.
- Ensure that materials are accessible for children with specific disabilities.
- Choose materials that support individual goals of children.



Link materials to curriculum and instruction:

- Materials support children’s acquisition of knowledge and skills.
- Choose objects that encourage children to construct knowledge.
- Select materials that address areas of the *Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework*.

