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Environments and Materials for Science




In California Preschool Curriculum Framework, Volume 3, read:

- Pages 142–150 of the science domain.
- Appendix on pages 234–236, “Suggested Materials.”

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Environments and Materials for Science

Unit 3, Key Topic 2, Handout 1 

Environments and Materials: The Physical Environment Relating Suggested Strategies to Suggested Materials				
Suggested Materials → Strategies for Planning the Physical Environment ↓	Scientific tools	Open-ended objects and materials	Living things	Books
Be thoughtful about what objects and materials to include in environment.				
Provide a variety of natural materials to observe and investigate.				
Include objects and materials that allow for creativity and open-ended investigation.				
Include living things in the preschool environment.				
Include scientific tools for observation, measurement, and documentation.				

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Unit 3, Key Topic 2, Handout 2 

Environments and Materials: The Social Environment Relating Suggested Strategies to Suggested Materials				
Suggested Materials → Strategies for Planning the Social Environment ↓	Scientific tools	Open-ended objects and materials	Living things	Books
Foster children's curiosity and questioning.				
Guide children in exploring their questions.				
Be an active observer.				
Talk with children and engage them in conversations.				

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- What stood out for you as you worked with these handouts?
- What happened when you worked with the strategies and materials? What discoveries did you make?
- What were the differences between working with physical environments and social environments?
- What does this suggest to you about science learning in the preschool environment?

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Environments and Materials for Science

- Planning physical and social environments
- Intentional teaching
- Teachable moments



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- What did you learn about the materials that are recommended in the publication “Appendix: Suggested Materials?”
- Where were there struggles in this learning experience?
- How does this make you feel about planning science curriculum for young children?
- What will you do with this information?