

Suggested Playroom layout to suit a 0-3 Parent & Toddler Group

No two groups are the same!

Various factors contribute to each Parent & Toddler group being unique. You as the adult must look at the room from a child's view and create an attractive and stimulating environment. Unfortunately, not many groups have the luxury of a purpose-built playroom. This usually means that equipment must be set out and tidied away after each session. Also, you may not have the option to personalise the room with the children's works of art! However, even the drabbest of halls can be transformed with some careful planning.

Key factors for consideration when setting up:

- All equipment must conform to Health & Safety guidelines and you must risk assess carefully.
- Resources (ones that you have planned for that session), pictures, mirrors etc should be at a child's level so the child has easy access and choice.
- Separate activity areas e.g. messy, active, quiet, construction, role play. Then these areas can quickly transform to a snack table being set up and an open space for physical/music session being made available.
- Try to avoid having too many chairs set out for parents. You want them to be involved in the activities with their children.
- Registration/information table situated near the main entrance.
- Being inventive and adding new ideas to all the areas adds to the child's interest – just think of how you see a shop window, selling new stock and enticing you in!

Areas you may wish to include at each session:

Welcoming Entrance:

Table/Register/Group Rules/Parent information



Role Play:

Kitchen/Dressing up/home resources to play imaginatively with



Quiet area:

Cushions/soft toys/treasure baskets/baby tummy time/baby mats and or seats/books/puzzles



Physical Play:

Hoops/balls/tunnel/tent/ride ons etc



Small World Play:

Dinosaurs/farm/Fire Stations etc - try where possible to support with natural materials - sand/coloured rice/leaves etc



Messy Play:

Situate in an area with suitable flooring with mop/cloths ready for spillages. Where possible situate this area as close to a sink as possible. Activities could include water, sand, paint, gloop, glue etc.



Resources you may wish to consider:

Babies	Toddlers	Over 3 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black and white toys, books • Activity centres • Stacking toys and rings • Push-pull toys • Small soft toys for throwing • Squeaky toys • Soft mats • Books with rhymes • Telephone and mirror • Natural materials & treasure baskets • Simple picture books • Bubbles • Heuristic Play with all sorts of ordinary everyday items inside). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push/pull toys • Cars (big enough to ride on) • Balls, Beanbags & Mats • Outdoor activities like running, hopping, ballgames, slides, climbing etc. • Mirrors • Cash register & pretend foods Telephone • Dress up clothes for dolls and children • Musical instruments • Puppets • Big boxes • Animal toys • Blocks big • Small Picture cards • Floor & table top jigsaws, • Peg- boards • Shape-sorter • Books with simple stories • Paints, brushes & paper • Crayons, • Chalk, • Cardboard boxes etc. • Play dough • Sand pit, water tray • Bubbles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedal Toys & Cars (big enough to ride on) • Balls & ball games • Beanbags • Dance Music & musical instruments • Climbing/bouncing equipment • Balancing beams, seesaws etc. • Tea-sets • Cash register & pretend food • Telephone • Dress-up clothes (include multi-cultural clothes) • Puppets • Cars, buses, fire engines, planes, garage, trains, train sets, boats and trucks • Sponges, paper, crayons, chalk, glue, junk materials, • Sand box and sand toys • Water tray & water toys • Small model figures – farm animals, insects & birds, dinosaurs and people toys

Top tip: where possible use real objects from peoples houses that they no longer want e.g. old telephones/cups/plates/whisk/pans and other household objects! This is not an exhaustive list.