

We Skoolhouse



HOME SET-UP GUIDE





Preparing a play space may come with a lot of questions, & that's where we come in!

Whether you're working with a small space carved out in your living room, or a large playroom, we're happy to share some tips and tricks to keep in mind to better utilize these different spaces. Not only that, but we're taking the fun outside and offering some ways to maximize outdoor play as well.

What WE Recommend:

- **YES! Space:** Your child should be welcome to explore anything and everything in their space, in their very own way.
- **Open shelves:** Offers easy access & visibility of materials.
- **Less is More!** Too many toys & materials available at once can be overwhelming. Consider removing oversized & overstuffed toy chests, and rotating toys based on your child's engagement.
- **Neutral & Natural Elements:** Keep colors neutral to provide a more serene feel. Welcome natural and/or warm lighting, plants, and mirrors - reflects light & makes space seem larger.





INFANTS & TODDLERS



Before infants are mobile, a little bit of space goes a long way. A play mat and a few materials that are occasionally rotated offers far more than we think. Babies benefit from revisiting the same materials over-and-over again to build understanding of properties and uses.

When infants are on the move, ensure that your space is continuously secured to prevent any safety hazards or injury to your child.

Refer to the checklist below to know what to look out for!

As your baby grows, explore different ways they can exercise their gross and fine motor skills. If you don't have a lot of indoor space, no problem! Simply allowing your child to cruise along the couch, crawl after a ball, and use furniture to pick themselves up is offering them more than enough!

Infant & Toddler Environment Checklist

- Small Objects:** Ensure floors & accessible shelves/surfaces are free from small objects that may pose as a choking hazard.
- Open Outlets:** Be sure to purchase some outlet covers and check that any accessible electrical outlets are closed up.
- Sharp Corners:** Consider buying/creating corner pads on tables with sharp edges to prevent injury as your little crawls, climbs, and waddles around.
- Secure Large Pieces of Furniture to the Wall:** Consider bolting book/toy shelves, dressers, large mirrors, etc. to the wall.
- Loose Cords:** Be mindful of curtain chords, string lights, wires, etc. that your child can grab, pull down, and/or wrap around their neck or limbs.





Indoor Materials: Babies & Toddlers

- Play Mat or Low Pile Rug
- Overhead Mobile
- Wooden Climbers
- Foam Blocks/Climbers
- Slide
- Ball Pit
- Tent/Teepee
- Crawl Through Tunnel
- Sensory Wall/Patches
- Sensory Bottles
- Texture Balls
- Wooden Toys
- Plush Dolls
- Stacking Rings / Cups
- Push Cart
- Board Books





PRESCHOOLERS



While your preschooler will still seek movement like they did when they were a toddler, you'll also notice that they're more likely to sit and stay a while, engaging in imaginative and dramatic play, small world play, and art materials, for longer periods of time.

Whether a small play space or a large one, you can incorporate these different areas of play in various ways:

Areas of Play	Small Space	Large Space Same as "Small Space" plus...
Dramatic Play	Hats, scarves, loose fabrics, baby doll, cardboard boxes, loose parts	Pretend kitchen, doll stroller, toddler-sized couch, table, chairs
Blocks & Small World Play	Rotating baskets of different blocks, toy people, toy animals, toy vehicles and train tracks	Large shelving unit to store blocks and toy figures, cars, etc. play/lego tables
Science & Sensory	Tabletop shallow tray, large clear storage container for water/sand play, tabletop light table, mirrors	Sensory table, light table, ball pit, indoor swing, trampoline, slide,
Art Exploration	Tabletop caddy of art materials (coloring utensils, scissors, glue, and crafts materials) & paper	Tabletop easel, standing easel, shelving unit to store, organize, and offer art supplies/materials
Manipulatives	Rotating shallow baskets and/or clear containers of Magna Tiles, legos, bristle blocks, links, loose parts, natural & recycled materials	



Indoor Materials: Preschoolers

- Shelving Unit
- Small Table with Chairs
- Baby Dolls / Plush Dolls
- Tabletop or Standing Easel
- Art Supplies
- Blocks
- Toy people/animals/cars
- Tracks & Trains
- Dollhouse
- Cozy Corner/Tent/Teepee
- Library of Accessible Books
- Indoor Stepping Stones
- Rocking Horse
- Wooden Play Arch
- Wooden Rocker
- Wooden Climber/Ramp/Slide





OUTDOOR SPACE



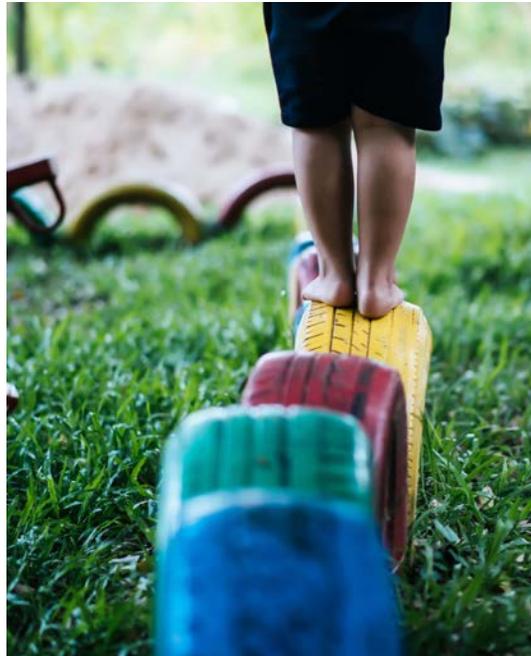
Outdoor Materials: Small Yard/ Balcony

- Sensory Table: Ideal for water or sand play
- Musical Wall - Hang spare pots, pans, xylophone, chimes, etc. for sound exploration
- Gardening Pots & Corresponding Supplies
- Small Mud Kitchen
- Easel & Coloring Utensils
- Cozy Nook with Books
- Blocks & Toy Figures
- Binoculars, Magnifying Glass, & Natural Materials
- Spray Bottles
- Bubbles/Bubble Machine
- Chalk / Chalkboard



Outdoor Materials: Large Backyard

- Climbing/Play Structure with Swings, Slide, etc.
- Sandbox / Wood Chip Box
- Large Mud Kitchen
- Wheelbarrow
- Trampoline
- See-saw
- Tires and/or Hula Hoops
- Sound/Music Wall: Pots, pans, xylophone, etc.
- Water Wall: PVC pipes, funnels, bottles, etc.
- Variety of Balls
- Easel & Coloring Utensils
- Binoculars. Magnifying Glass, & Natural Materials
- Spray Bottles
- Bubbles/Bubble Machine
- Chalk / Chalk Wall





Things to Keep In Mind:

- Your home may look like the picture above, & that's OKAY! Remember, if your house looks like a child lives there, it's because they do. While messes can be overwhelming, it is not a reflection on you or your parenting. Take a breath and know this is reality.
- Children learn through mess making and/or may be too enthralled in their play to always remember to clean up after themselves - their messes are never intended to upset you.
- As your toddler gets a bit older, welcome them to help you clean up after they're seemingly done with a particular toy. You can sing or play a clean-up song to establish a new routine after play sessions.
- Learning is not confined to one space or place, but rather is an ongoing event that happens throughout the day in any and all experiences. Allow your child to bring different materials with them and explore them in new ways.

Have specific questions about your child's learning space? Feel free to reach out to us for a Virtual 1:1 In-Home Set-up session with one of our We Skoolhouse consultants.