



FOUNDATION STAGE: Planning the Learning Environment

The learning environment has a direct impact on the quality of the curriculum provided. The inside and outside environment should be organised so there are clearly defined; logical curriculum areas in which the children have access to the resources.

SPACE AND ORGANISATION

- Safe and secure environment
- Well-defined areas providing cross-curricular opportunities
- Distinct areas to promote concentration, co-operation, and controlled movement
- Outdoors planned in as much detail as indoors
- Inviting, colourful, child-centred environment
- Adequate space for children to move freely both indoors and outdoors
- Adequate heat, light and ventilation (room temperature maintained at 18°C / 65F)

RESOURCES

- Materials and equipment are clearly labelled with pictures and/or print
- Equipment is easily accessible to the children
- Equipment is of good quality, complete and checked regularly (risk assessment)
- Resources include a variety of natural materials
- There is a range of resources that provide variety and extended play
- The resources reflect the communities with which the setting serves
- Equal opportunities are reflected in the resources
- Children are provided with protective aprons for specific activities
- Children are encouraged to organise their own environment and resources
- Children are encouraged to replace resources

STORAGE

- At child height
- Attractively set out and self-serving
- In clearly defined areas that support the curriculum

DISPLAY

- Be of high standard
- Show a balanced representation of the **children's** work
- Give opportunities for interaction and exploration
- Provide stimulus for talk
- Include questions, statements, vocabulary etc.

ADULTS

- Organisation of the environment will have an impact on the adults' practice
- Balance needed between static adults (working with children on a focused activity) and 'floating' adults (interacting with groups working independently)



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SUSTAINING RESOURCE PROVISION

- ⇒ The Foundation Stage Co-ordinator should alert the headteacher/manager to any significant expenditure
- ⇒ There should be an annual budget for the Foundation Stage
- ⇒ Foundation Stage should be identified on the School Improvement Plan

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE LIST - INDOOR AND OUTDOOR

General Equipment:

- Natural resources
- Climbing frames, slides, planks
- Balancing beams
- Tunnels, guttering
- Tyres
- Crates
- Cardboard boxes, tubes (range of sizes and shapes)
- Range of wheeled vehicles
- Steps
- See-saw
- Prams, push-chairs/buggies (doll and child-sized)
- wheelbarrows
- Crates
- Drainpipes
- Large cardboard boxes
- Accessible storage
- Seating
- Flat surfaces
- Slopes
- Sandpit and tools
- Balls, beanbags
- Hoops, skittles, quoits, rackets, skipping ropes
- Writing materials
- Blankets

Quiet Area:

- soft cushions
- comfortable seating
- enclosed space (with use of furniture, screens, fabric)



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Storage:

- A variety of labelled units and cupboards with surfaces at children's height
- Shelved units with labelled trays
- Cloakroom areas/pegs

Home Corner

(Relevant to the communities and/or topic)

- Range of units including cooker, shelving, fridge etc.
- Iron and ironing board
- Child's bed and bedding
- Table and chairs
- Range of multi-cultural dolls
- Doll's clothes, doll's bed and storage
- Telephone
- Range of crockery pots and pans, cutlery from a variety of cultures
- Cleaning equipment
- Pretend food (commercially-bought or made e.g. using salt-dough)
- Clip boards, diaries, calendars, telephone directories
- Writing materials. Labels, pictures
- Clock
- Computer, calculator
- Scales: cooking and bathroom

Role Play

(Relevant to the topic)

- Dressing-up storage/rack
- Multi-cultural clothes, hats, shoes
- Large unbreakable mirror
- Bags, purses, baskets
- Multi-cultural jewellery
- Display units
- Display pictures
- Writing materials, labels, pictures
- Blankets
- Money, calculator
- Tickets
- Timetables, diaries, telephone directories
- Tool Kit



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- Medical Set
- Picnic Set
- Steering wheel
- Road signs, maps
- Petrol pumps

Wet Area:

- Sand trays for wet and dry sand
- Sand
- Water tray
- Sand and water resources /toys
- Natural resources
- Easy accessible storage for resources

Creative Area:

- Easels and/or painting/activity tables
- White boards
- Range of paints, paint pots, printing equipment
- Range of brushes: decorators', nail & toothbrushes, etc.
- Marbles
- Cotton buds
- String
- Straws

Range of natural materials

- Shelving
- Paper storage
- Cleaning equipment – child-sized
- Protective aprons
- Hooks for aprons
- Drying rack
- Markers, felts
- Display areas, e.g. washing lines & pegs

Technology Area:

- Range of materials and storage for model-making
- Woodwork bench and range of appropriate tools and storage
- Selection of adhesives: glue sticks, PVA, sticky tape, masking tape, etc
- Selection of tools: single and double hole punchers, etc.



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- Scissors
- string

Large and Small Construction:

- Labelled storage
- Lego
- Duplo
- Mobilo
- Sticklebricks
- Poleidoblocs
- Poly-M
- Wooden blocks
- Train sets
- Small world
- vehicles
- Carpet/blanket area

Graphics/Writing Area:

Interesting writing tools - change frequently to maintain interest

- Felt-tip pens (fine, medium, broad), glitter pens, gel pens, biro, light-up pens, italic felt-tip pen, 'smelly' pens
- Pencils – lead, coloured, round, triangle
- Wax crayons, oil pastels, pastels, chalks, charcoal
- Dry marker pens and boards

Office Equipment

- Rulers – different shapes and sizes
- Adhesives – glue sticks, sellotape, masking tape
- Pencil grips
- Sharpeners, rubbers
- Clipboards, note books, diaries, address books, calendar
- Hole punchers – single and double
- Treasury tags, paper clips
- String
- Safe staplers
- Scissors (variety of cuts) – straight, zig-zag, wavy
- Labels, stickers, post-its
- Stamp and ink pads
- Typewriter, keyboard



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- Display board and blutack, washing line

Paper

- Different shapes, sizes, colours, thickness, textures
- Plain, lined, graph, shiny, matt, opaque, transparent, corrugated, textured
- Card, greetings cards, notelets, postcards
- Envelopes – different shapes and sizes
- Zig-zag booklets

Environmental print

- Name cards
- Signs, logos, etc. (e.g. food/drink packets, restaurant logos)
- Alphabet display
- Letters – wooden, plastic, magnetic (& boards), sand, feely

Book Area:

- Storage – e.g. Kinder box
- Books – multicultural fiction and non-fiction, all in good condition
- Dual language books
- Cushions, bean bags, low-level seating
- Display units and boards – for books and related artefacts
- Magnetic board
- Pictures – for display

Self-Service Snack Bar:

- Name cards
- Milk cartons, jugs of water, cups
- Fruit, snack
- Clip-board & pens – children can record their names
- Laminated pictures/photographs (including of children) – to promote **real** talk
- Table and seating

Cooking:

- Utensils
- Mixing bowls
- Table jugs
- Recipes



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- Baking trays
- Scales
- Saucepans
- Cleaning materials
- Labelled storage and containers

Musical Instruments:

- Selection of multi-cultural untuned percussion (made and/or commercially bought)
- Keyboard
- CD / Cassette player

ICT/AV Resources:

- Computer at child height
- Appropriate software
- Roamer
- Tape player and headphones
- Selection of tapes, stories and songs in a range of languages
- Portable tape player for outdoors
- Camera
- Tape-recorder, dictaphone

Exploratory Area:

- Plant pots or growing beds
- Digging area
- Digging / gardening tools
- Bird table feeder
- Magnifying glasses
- Pooters
- Mirrors
- Sand
- Water
- Watering cans
- Guttering and pipes
- Wind chimes
- Magnets
- Electrical circuits: bulbs, buzzers, batteries, crocodile clips



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Work-in-Progress Area:

- Clear space for displaying work-in-progress, at children's height – table, shelf, etc.
- Mark-making materials, name cards

Mathematics Area:

- Puzzles
- Sorting toys
- Pegboards
- Magnetic boards
- Giant number squares / mats
- Dice small and very large
- Clocks
- Shapes 3D and 2D
- Scales: bathroom, weighing, balancing
- Tape measure
- Measuring cylinders
- Rulers
- Calculators

Talk Table/Area:

- Telephones
- Cassette recorders, Dictaphones
- Microphones
- Mark-making materials
- Catalogues
- Role-play television
- Puppets, story props

NB: These suggestions are not intended to be an exhaustive list. Settings may choose to add further resources to the list.