

Literacy in the Classroom

Literacy in Each Center Area

The *IQ (Instructional Quality) Guide for the Learning Environment* for the Georgia's Pre-K Program suggests adding language and literacy items and writing supplies to each center area of the classroom. By enhancing the learning centers with literacy materials, the teachers can engage with the children to increase their phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, alphabetic knowledge and vocabulary development.

Below you will find suggested items to include in the classroom display, center areas, and the outdoor classroom environment. This list is not exhaustive. It was developed to share ideas and give you, the classroom teachers, a "jump start" with literacy development in the Pre-K class.

Language and Literacy Center

Remember to include a variety of book types such as fantasy, fairy tales, non-fiction, wordless, repetitive, American sign language, Braille, informational, stories about people that reflect different cultures, ages, and abilities, Picture Dictionary, etc. in your library area and in other center areas of the classroom. Also remember to include books that reflect the current topic or interest.

Display Book Jackets	Class Made Books	Books on Tape
Flannel Board with Stories/Pieces	Display Posters from Authors	Puppets
Big Books	Charts or Posters of Familiar Rhymes	
Magnetic Stories	Magnetic Letters	
Foam Letters (various sizes)	Letter Matching Games	
Story Sequencing Cards or Photographs		
Mailboxes (one for each child and teacher)		

Math and Manipulative Center

Remember to include a variety of books that encourage counting, shape and size identification, measuring, same and opposites, numbers, money, math terms (more, some, all, less, same, different, part of, half, short, tall, large, small, heavy, light, etc.), etc.

Scales (bath, balance, etc.)	Adding Machines	Parquetry or Attribute pieces
Child Safe Compass	Number Stickers	Interlocking Letter Cubes
Letter Beads (with laces)	Dominos	Floor Puzzles
Number Cubes (dice)	Calculators	Calendars
Sorting Items	Shape Stickers	Time Keepers (timers)
Wood Puzzles	Foam Numbers	Pattern blocks
Scrabble game pieces	Games(matching, association, classification, etc.)	
Empty Box Fronts Cut into Puzzles	Magnetic Numbers (with magnetic surface)	

Dramatic Play Center

Remember to include a variety of books that focus on familiar foods, food from other cultures, families, friends, careers, day to day activities, school, sports, picnics, circus, self-concept, feelings and emotions, fears, self-help skills, celebrations, manners, travel, etc.

Cookbooks	Recipe Cards (blank)	Writing Utensils
Old Checks	Order Pads (restaurant)	Clipboards
Coupons	Sale Flyers	Pretend Credit Cards
Calculators	Junk Mail	Old Business Cards
Magazines	Newspaper	Message Pads
Computer Keyboard	Empty Food Containers	Telephones
Rolodex	Phone Books	Address Book
Cash Register or Adding Machine	Play Money	Stuffed Animals
Dolls	Dress-Up Clothes	Food Scale
Timers (sand, kitchen, etc.)	Pretend Clocks	Real Mailbox
Environmental Print (familiar signs or logos)		Rolls of paper "tickets"
Paper grocery bags (with store logo)	Price tags (tie-on or self adhesive)	
Menus (store bought or made)		

Science Center

Remember to include books about birds, bugs and insects, animals, weather, seasons, recycling, the environment, space, ocean, sea shells, gardening, trees and plants, nutrition, cooking (easy to follow recipes), five senses, dental care, the human body, dinosaurs, volcanoes, simple experiments, magnets, etc. Science Magazines such as "Ranger Rick", "Our Big Back Yard", "National Geographic", etc. are great ideas too.

Bug, Insect, Animal Stickers	Graph Paper	Texture Boards or Samples
Bug, Insect, Animal Pictures	Balance Scale	Flashlight
Magnifying Glasses	Letter Cookie Cutters (for clay or dough)	
Collections of Real Items	Letter Stampers (for clay or dough)	
Writing utensils and paper to record observations (spiral notebooks, plain paper, etc.)		
Establish a Recycling Center (plastic, newspapers, magazines, etc.)		

Music and Movement

While a music center is not a requirement of Pre-K, many teachers and students love having this center in the classroom. Remember to include a variety of books that encourage rhyming, singing, and chanting. Books that include nursery rhymes, lullabies, and Mother Goose are also great ideas for this center.

Song Chart	Finger-play Chart	Finger-play Mitt
Nursery Rhyme Chart	Puppets	Bean Bags
Parachute	Flashlight	Story Apron (and stories)
Recorded Songs in Various Languages		
Music Activities that Include Directions (i.e. The Hokey Pokey)		
Streamers, Scarves, Etc. for movement activities		

Art Center

Remember to include a variety of books that encourage individual expression and color exploration, shapes, simple drawings, famous artists and their work, people/animals/characters engaging in creative processes, etc.

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| Letter Stamps and Stamp Pads | Letter Stickers | Letter Sponges |
| Magazines | Newspapers | School Supply or Toy Catalogs |
| Writing Utensils (various sizes) | Dry Letter Noodles | Alphabet Paper Punches |
| Prints of Famous Artist's Work | Letter Stencils | Chalkboards and Chalk |
| Tracing Paper | Carbon Paper | Measuring Tools |
| Lined and Unlined Paper | Lite Brite | Write On – Wipe Off |
| Boards (and markers) | Etch-A-Sketch | |
| Blank books (teacher made or store bought) | | |

Block Center

Remember to include about transportation, farms, houses, zoo, cities, community helpers, safety, neighborhoods, buildings, tools, communication, travel, etc. Remember to include a variety of writing materials.

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| Blue Prints | Maps | Graph Paper |
| Traffic signs (made or bought) | Tools (plastic) | Instruction Manuals (flyers) |
| Steering Wheel | Keys and Key Rings | Vehicles (large and small) |
| Small People (plastic or wood) | Animals (plastic or wood) | Bath Scale |
| Measuring Tools | Walkie Talkies | Story Blocks or Dominos |
| Brochures from Travel Agent | Photographs or Postcards of Buildings | Writing Instruments |
| Catalogs or sale flyers from hardware or home supply stores | | |
| Public transportation cards/tokens | | |
| Items to make signs (paper, craft sticks, tape, etc.) | | |

Outdoor (Playground)

A backpack, laundry basket, grocery basket, etc. can be filled each day to take outside. Be sure to take a blanket or quilt for a sitting area. Sunglasses might also be needed.

Remember to include books on insects, bugs, spiders, traffic, birds, weather, parks, sports, safety, etc.

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| Sidewalk Chalk | Binoculars and Bird Book | Flannel Board |
| Flannel Boards with Stories/Pieces | Bug Box and Bug Book | Wind Socks |
| Weather Thermometer | Measuring Tools | Walkie Talkies |
| Traffic Signs for the trike path | Magnifying Glasses | |
| Wind Chimes | Parachute | |
| Word cards for outdoor items (ball, bird, swing, sun, cloud, etc.) | | |
| Sensory Table with Sand/Water Toys | | |
| Notepads or Clipboards with Paper and Writing Utensils | | |

Classroom Display

Although this is not a specific learning center, the classroom display reflects many literacy experiences for children. Consider the following when you add to your classroom display.

Adding Dictation to Children's creations	Hanging Class Made Charts and Graphs
Recipe Charts	Language Experience Charts
Children's Writings and Drawings	Words in Various Languages
American Sign Language Poster	Braille Poster
A Neighborhood Bulletin Board displayed at the children's eye level (this could include flyers, brochures, stationary, etc. from local businesses)	
Class Rules (try to keep these to a minimum and remember to add corresponding pictures)	

Additional Ideas

Labeling bins and shelves for children with pictures and words helps children recognize that print has meaning. Label familiar items in your classroom (door, sink, etc.) and you will soon start to see the children writing and reading these words.

Be sure to include the children's names and the alphabet in the classroom. Children need to see models when they are learning to write. It works best if you display these at children's eye level and/or in a center.

Include items in your large group/circle time that encourage literacy development. Things like the daily menu, names of who is present, daily news, etc. are meaningful in a child's day and will be items the children can begin to read quickly. This can be done with sentence strips, chart paper, a write on – wipe off board, a chalkboard, a bulletin board on the children's eye level, a smart board, etc. A class message board can be a place for children to display important messages too (lost blanket). Remember to use pictures along with words whenever possible.

Having materials for children to act out familiar nursery rhymes is a wonderful large or small group literacy activity. Some suggestions include a candle and candlestick for "Jack Be Nimble," a small stool, a plastic spider, and a bowl for "Little Miss Muffet," or a metal pail for "Jack and Jill".

A photo album can be added to each center area to document the children engaging with the materials. As the school year progresses, the children will expand their interactions with the materials and each other.

Add a literacy container/portable writing center to each center. Include writing utensils, paper, clipboards, books that relate to a specific center area, etc.

We all know that children can be rough on books, especially those favorites. Think about setting up a Book Hospital in the classroom. The children can use erasers, scotch tape, book tape, etc. to repair class books. Baby wipes could be used to clean the covers of books. Be sure to label crates or trays so the children know which books need repairing and which have been repaired.

Please refer to the *Georgia Early Learning and Development Standard Communication, Language, and Literacy (CLL)* section for specific performance indicators as well as the *Instructional Quality Guides (IQ Guides)* for specific requirements for your Pre-K classroom.