



Resources to Support Discovery of the World

The table below provides a list of basic resources and materials which can be placed at the Discovery Centre:

Natural Materials

- Flowers, seeds, seedpods, leaves
- Feathers
- Herbs and spices
- Plants, fruits, vegetables
- Rocks, stones, pebbles
- Seashells
- Wood pieces, twigs, sticks/branches

Natural materials are easy to find and provide children with many opportunities for endless investigation and open-ended activities. They provide children with a range of sensory experiences with the scents, colours, sounds and textures presented. Having natural materials in the indoor learning spaces also brings nature closer to the children.

Live Specimens

- Aquarium
- Insects and other small animals
- Terrarium

Live specimens can be placed at the Discovery Centre for children to observe their characteristics and growth patterns. For example, they can observe how mealworms grow and turn into beetles by keeping a record of the changes that occur.

Children can also learn to care for the living things, observe safety rules and be responsible when handling living things brought to their classroom. They must be taught to return all living creatures to their natural habitats after making their observations.



Tools and Equipment

Observation tools:

- Magnifying glasses, viewfinders, binoculars
- Mirrors
- Torch lights

Measurement tools:

- Paper clips
- Strings, rope
- Strips of paper
- Multi-link or unifix cubes
- Weighing scale, measuring cup

Materials to aid transfer:

- Plastic droppers
- Strainers, sifters, funnels
- Tongs, plastic tweezers

Miscellaneous:

- Globe
- Magnets
- Pinwheels, wind chimes
- Prisms
- Pulleys, levers, gears

Children should be actively involved in carrying out investigations to find out how things work and happen. Thus, it is essential that they have simple tools and equipment to facilitate their investigations. There should also be objects that they are curious to find out more about (e.g., small machines, pulleys, magnets).

Recycled Materials and Loose Parts

- Aluminium drink cans
- Aluminium pie pans
- Bottle caps, bread tags
- Ice cream sticks
- Marbles, buttons, beads
- Old magazines and newspapers
- Paper towel and toilet paper empty rolls
- Plastic bottles, clear containers, glass jars
- Tissue boxes, cardboard boxes, egg cartons

Discarded reusable items or loose parts commonly found around us can be placed at the Discovery Centre. These recycled materials and loose parts are open-ended and allow children to explore many different ways to use, combine and recombine them to construct and create things. As children select materials for reuse in model making, creating new products or making art projects, they develop and use process skills, such as observation, comparison and reasoning, as well as creativity and inventiveness in problem-solving.





Visual/Audio Resources

- Brochures, charts, photographs, posters and postcards
- Information or non-fiction books, picture books
- Maps, atlas
- Music recordings (e.g., ethnic songs)
- Sound clips (e.g., bird calls, falling rain, wind)
- Videos (e.g., cultural dances, documentaries for children)

Visual resources help to illustrate and explain concepts and ideas to children. They also draw children's attention and can help them make direct connections with their own environment and practices. For example, photographs showing how people celebrate key events (e.g., National Day) and festivals important to the ethnic groups in Singapore can be displayed to encourage children to talk about their own personal experiences and learn more about their country and the cultures and traditions in Singapore.

Resources for Recording Purposes

- Audio/video recorder
- Camera
- Paper, pencils, crayons, colour pencils, markers

At the Discovery Centre, children will be carrying out many investigations and making many observations. Hence, it is useful for them to have easy access to resources/materials that allow them to record their observations and findings.