25 Materials to Create a Makerspace

Studio/Design Materials

1. Various Paper Types

Offer different kinds of thickness, texture, and transparency to spark curiosity and creativity. Ex: graph paper, vellum, waxed paper, cardstock, plain drawing paper, butcher paper, poster board, scrapbook paper

2. Clipboards, Notebooks, and Binders

Encourage children to design, collect data, or make observations by offering places to record ideas, sketch, and keep track of design iterations.

3. Drawing/writing tools

Pencils, markers, colored pencils, crayons, chalk.

4. Measuring Tools

Rulers, measuring tapes, a compass, scale, yard stick, etc.

5. Tape/Glue

Offer various kinds of tape and glue to use as connection materials for creations and prototypes. Ex: glue sticks, wood glue, white glue, tacky glue, painters tape, masking tape, electrical tape, duct tape

6. Foam Core and Cardboard

Foam core is a great material for constructing ramps, prototypes, and other structures.

7. Makedo

A great tool for making creations out of cardboard. This line of tools has *Scrus, Scru-drivers*, and *Safe Saws*.

8. Glue Gun and Glue Sticks

With teacher support, this tool is a sturdy option for connecting materials like foam core and cardboard.

9. Wire/String

Wire and string also make great connecting materials. They can be used to add dimension when used with clay, cardboard/foam core, or paper.

10. Recycled Materials

Recycled materials can be used in an endless amount of ways in a makerspace! Spark family involvement and invite them to donate recycled materials your school or makerspace. Ex: cardboard, packing materials, containers, bottle caps, twist ties.

11. Real Tools
With practice and supervision, children are very capable of using tools in safe ways. Start with scissors and add sandpaper, screws and screwdrivers, small hammers and nails, pliers, and wire cutters. Always include *child-sized* safety goggles and establish rules for using tools.

12. Recycled Appliances
Small kitchen appliances like toasters and blenders are perfect for disassembling and salvaging parts for maker creations. Stay away from any computer equipment, as many. computer components have lead in where the pieces have been soldered together.

13. Wood scraps
You can sometimes find wood scraps at your local hardware store. These materials are great for practicing tool skills and making wooden creations or prototypes.

14. Loose Parts
Collected materials make great loose parts for structures and inventive constructions. Make sure there is enough variety and diversity in the selection of loose parts offered. Ex: pebbles, mosaic tiles, wood cookies, stones, vase fillers, allen wrenches, pipe stems, spools.

15. Clay
Clay can be used in isolation or with other materials to create model or prototypes during investigations.

16. Sewing Materials
Offer darning or plastic needles to start and move toward smaller needles as children become more familiar and skilled.

17. Fabric
Furniture or upholstery stores usually have lots of samples and scraps they are happy to give away. Children can use these in many ways including sewing projects, texture for ramps, and other various creations.

Construction/Engineering Materials
18. Blocks
Blocks are some of the most versatile and useful materials to have in a makerspace. They can be used to create models and prototypes for inquiries and explorations.

19. Legos
Legos are another wonderful building material for children to create models or prototypes. Choose loose lego parts over kits or sets to leave the exploration and use open-ended.

20. Lego Wall Baseplates
These base plates can be mounted to just about any surface to create a Lego building platform. Mount them on walls or the back of bookshelves and build horizontally for an exciting twist on something familiar.

21. Magnatiles
Magnatiles are a great material for open-ended building. Their translucent and colorful properties make them perfect for use on a light table or in a sunny window.

22. Ramps
Kodo ramp kits are great ways to jumpstart ramp play! Ramps can also be created by children out of cardboard, foam core board, or rain gutters.

23. Tubes
Tubes can be added to ramp play or other structures to invite systems thinking.

High Tech
24. Cubetto
Introduce coding to young children in a fun and engaging way! Cubetto's simple coding system allows children to write their own codes in a game-like format.

25. Google Cardboard
These inexpensive glasses make the world of virtual reality accessible to any age. Pop in a smartphone and explore another world right inside the classroom.