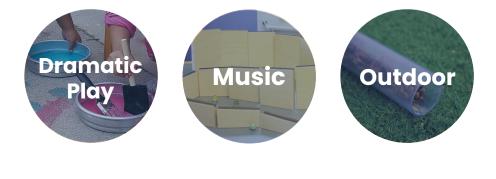
# **Product By Interest Area**















"Art materials, like blocks, have the potential for stimulating a broad range of creative endeavors."

The Creative Curriculum® For Preschool Volume 2: Interest Areas





Placing **Antics Blocks** in the center of the art table along with plenty of paper and drawing tools will inspire children to think about and practice making their own patterns, lines, and connecting forms.



Use the **Harlekino** arranging cards on an art table or on a light panel to demonstrate basic color theory. By layering the transparent cards children can create geometric compositions. Use the cards to spur experiences with forming shapes using dough or paints. They can also be used for tracing and if given a little poster tack or painter's tape, children can overlap them directly on a window.



Invite families to collect empty cereal boxes and cardboard shipping cartons. Cut them down to easily manageable shapes and sizes. With the **Makedo** tools and a collection of cardboard scraps, children will create abstract 3D sculptures, structures, mobiles, stabiles, and representations of their own choosing.



Use the **Rainbow Pegboard** or just the acrylic pegs as a centerpiece on your art table or on a shelf. These materials will inspire and support children's growing skills having to do with color identification, color mixing, and blending. Offer a variety of art mediums. Use the pegs on a light panel or windowsill to further their interest in the combination of color and light.



The set of three **Stackable Pans** are indispensable for holding all sorts of art materials. Use them for paint mixing, holding collage materials, fill with water for use with Water Canvas, display clay or drawing tools, or leave them empty for children to fill with materials of their choosing.



**Treasure Tubes** can be filled with small gems, tiny treasures, and natural materials. A collection of them on your art table can add beauty to the space and inspire children's creativity.



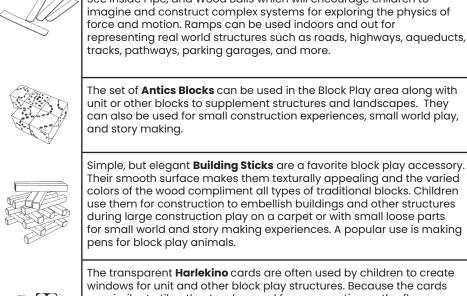
Cut **Water Canvas** to fit your easel or individual trays for children to use with fingers, eye droppers, sponges, spray bottles, or brushes. Use water only, as any paint residue will leave permanent marks. When used as a long piece large enough to cover a rectangular table or when clipped to a fence, Water Canvas is perfect for inspiring small group mural making.



## **Use In Block Play**

"To maximize children's learning from block play, give them sufficient room to build, a clearly defined space, appropriate flooring, and a variety of props and open-ended materials."

The Creative Curriculum® For Preschool Volume 2: Interest Areas



In the Block area, offer the All Purpose Ramps with your collection of tubes, balls, marbles, and toy vehicles. Children will use unit and hollow blocks to create support structures for ramp systems. Include Tunnels, See Inside Pipe, and Wood Balls which will encourage children to imagine and construct complex systems for exploring the physics of force and motion. Ramps can be used indoors and out for representing real world structures such as roads, highways, aqueducts, tracks, pathways, parking garages, and more.

unit or other blocks to supplement structures and landscapes. They can also be used for small construction experiences, small world play,

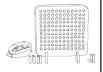
Their smooth surface makes them texturally appealing and the varied colors of the wood compliment all types of traditional blocks. Children use them for construction to embellish buildings and other structures during large construction play on a carpet or with small loose parts for small world and story making experiences. A popular use is making pens for block play animals.



The transparent Harlekino cards are often used by children to create windows for unit and other block play structures. Because the cards are similar to tiles, they're also used for representing paths, floors, and rugs with dollhouse sized table top construction. On a light table, the Harlekino cards can be combined with acrylic and other builders such as the Rainbow Pegs resulting in beautiful abstract designs and representations.



Placing the Makedo tools and some cardboard scraps in the Block Play area will prompt children to design and construct their own accessories and props for landscapes, buildings, and other structures. Support your young designers to construct supports for ramps, too.



The colorful transparent Pegs from the Rainbow Pegboard make wonderful block play accessories to combine with cylinders, pillars and other unit, hollow, or other blocks. Children use them for decorating buildings and towers, making fences, representing poles and posts, and windows. They're particularly well suited for tabletop block play and small world experiences as well.





**See Inside Pipe** is perfect for combining with unit and hollow blocks, cardboard and plastic tubes, and All Purpose Ramps. These unique construction materials can be used to represent underground pipeworks, transparent towers, and glass elevators. Children also use See Inside Pipe as components for road systems and ramp courses. Take them outdoors for use with outdoor blocks and builders, and for construction experiences with water, mud, and slurry.



**Treasure Tubes** can be used to embellish block play buildings and other structures. Offer colorful bits of cellophane, mylar, or natural materials for children to use to fill them. Place them on block shelves with cylinder blocks, small pipes, cardboard tubes, and other builders which have a similar shape.

**Tunnels** are another favorite construction accessory to make available in your Block Play area. Children use them in many ways, including for road and bridge construction, to represent rivers and streams and for embellishing unit block and toy train structures. When placed on their ends, Tunnels are often used to represent towers, castles, and imaginary buildings. Use them indoors and outdoors for both large and small construction.



The **Wheels Pack** can be used for construction with unit and hollow blocks, All Purpose Ramps, and block play figures. Children typically use Wheels and similar loose part materials to embellish block structures, make enclosures, and explore pattern. Invite children to compare and record how they travel down ramps or through tubes with other objects that roll such as the Wood Balls.



Balls are a staple accessory in the Block Play area. Combine the set of ten **Wood Balls** with your existing ball collection to promote children's growing reasoning skills as they compare similarities and differences.



#### **Use In Discovery**

"A Discovery Area stocked with interesting materials invites children to explore and investigate. It should include some basic tools as well as objects and natural materials."

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Use the **All Purpose Ramps** with your collection of balls, marbles, or natural materials for testing, comparing, and collecting data about the physics of force and motion. Use the Building Sticks to prop up ramps at various heights to explore how the slope of the ramp affects speed and distance. Offer the ramps in a large basket or on a rug with loose parts, the Makedo Tools and cardboard, See Inside Pipe, and/or the Tunnel Set.



**Antics Blocks** can be placed on a tray or in a basket on a shelf in the Discovery area for children to use on their own. They're a perfect compliment to your seasonal classroom ant farm or study of Insects.



**Building Sticks** are made of three natural wood varieties, cherry, maple, and walnut. Place several with magnifying lenses in your Discovery area during your study of trees or recycled materials.



Perfect on a light panel, **Harlekino** arranging cards are transparent. Use them for free exploration or to demonstrate basic color theory. Offer them on their own or with a basket of flashlights or touch lamps. Place two or three in a sunny window to encourage children to explore them with natural light.



Invite families to collect cardboard and offer pieces in various sizes along with **Makedo Scrudrivers** and **Scrus**. These tools require adult supervision until children become proficient with their use and care over time. Children will invent contraptions, models, and props with ordinary cardboard scraps.



**Marble Maze Ramps** require focus and persistence. This unique set of grooved planks must be ordered correctly in order to allow the marble to travel down the path. Children will discover that as they travel the course, marbles will produce audible tones.



**The Rainbow Pegboard** is certain to become the showpiece of your Discovery area. If possible, place it near a sunny window or offer children flashlights near it. For variation, remove the feet and place it flat on your classroom light panel. Add a basket of colorful cellophane, vinyl, and mylar pieces for light table exploration with the Pegs.



## **Use In Discovery Continued**



Offer **See Inside Pipe** with All purpose Ramps, the Tunnel Set, and your collection of balls, marbles or small natural materials that roll. See Inside Pipe works with 2" pipe fittings you may have in your collection of pipes offered with discovery materials.

Use the **Small Funnel Stand** with sand or water inside of a large sensory bin or sensory table. Keep See Inside Pipe nearby with other tools suitable for exploring the material you're using. Try it with gak or slime to foster children's understanding of material properties such as viscosity.



**Stackable Pans** are indispensable for holding natural materials, mixing up concoctions, and for children to use to collect and examine objects. Clean, sanitized pans can be used for cooking, too.



Eight transparent **Treasure Tubes** can be used for children to collect and display small natural materials such as feathers, shells, and petals. Fill them with collections of items like gems, bells, or transparent objects. They can be stacked, rolled, and shaken. Offer them with magnifiers, tongs, and other tools such as tiny funnels. Treasure Tubes can also be filled with water.



The set of 2 sturdy **Tunnels** can be easily combined with All Purpose Ramps for exploration of force and motion. Invite children to use one tunnel as a fulcrum by placing one ramp astride it. Then observe as children test and uncover information about weight, balance, and quantity using the Wooden Wheels or other small objects available in the Discovery Area.



Cut the roll of **Water Canvas** as needed for Art and Discovery Area experiences. In Discovery use small sections of Water Canvas on individual trays with a foam brush and small bowl of water for free exploration. With supervision, invite children to observe, predict, and test the time it takes for various amounts of water to evaporate.



Use the **Wheels Pack** along with All Purpose Ramps for testing and comparing motion, speed, and distance. Or offer them as loose parts with your own balance or scale. Offer them with the Makedo Tools, chenille pipe stems, or drinking straws for vehicle or contraption design and construction experiences.



## **Use In Dramatic Play**

"While too many props can be overwhelming, you will find that appropriate and interesting materials stimulate imaginative and constructive play."

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Children often use **Building Sticks** as small parts for constructing tabletop story landscapes with toy animals or figures. Because of their open-ended nature, the wooden pieces are used to represent food items and other common objects while children play imaginatively.



**Count and Thread Stones** make wonderful loose parts in the Dramatic play area. Children use them indoors and out to represent pretend foods. They're also handy for representing coins, stepping stones for tabletop story landscapes, and as cookies for pets during imaginative veterinary office play. Support literacy by using the Count and Thread Stones to support the books, Corduroy and A pocket For Corduroy by author, Don Freeman.



**Makedo tools** along with cardboard scraps encourage children to make their own dramatic play props, costume pieces, and small world or storymaking structures. Adult assistance may be needed as children think innovatively while designing and making elaborate props for their play.



With pretend cooking driving much of children's dramatic play experiences, the set of 3 **Stackable Pans** will be in demand. Use them indoors and out for pretend meal making, marketplace play, and mud kitchen activities.



Open-ended wooden wheels from the **Wheels Pack** are commonly used to represent familiar items such as cookies, cupcakes, mini pizzas, and coins. Offer these in the canvas bag included with the product or separate by size into the three Stackable Pans or small baskets you have on hand.



### Use In Music

"Experiences with music....are memorable because they are not restricted to the intellect but also touch the emotions and involve the senses."



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Children often use **Building Sticks** to strike together, producing tones. Although they were not necessarily intended for this purpose, their occasional use as rhythm instruments offers a change of pace from their normal classroom use as construction items.

Marble Maze Ramps will inspire children to explore objects that produce sound. As marbles roll down the descending ramps, tones can be heard. Encourage children to test and compare marbles or make up a song about the marble on its run. Invite children to create a course in a straight line and one that zigzags. Then observe and compare the sounds the marbles make on each.



The Makedo Tools can be used with cardboard to make models of musical instruments. Or inspire children to create their own boxes or other shapes that can be used with rubber bands or metal washers to produce sounds. Compare sounds produced by striking closed and open objects. Invite children to design and build drums or tone blocks or an imaginary instrument.



When struck with a soft mallet, **Stackable Pans** will produce a dull metallic sound. Offer them with other existing pots and pans during "found object" music making sessions. Or use them to display small objects like bells or Makedo Scrus during instrument making sessions.



**Treasure Tubes** are perfect for filling with small items that produce sound when the tubes are shaken or rolled. Offer them with tiny seashells, beads, bells, Makedo Scrus, or buttons. Encourage children to test and compare all sorts of small items until they produce a sound that's pleasing or satisfying.



#### **Use In Outdoor**

"An inviting outdoor environment offers children a variety of clear choices for very different kinds of experiences and challenges."

The Creative Curriculum® For Preschool Volume 2: Interest Areas





Durable **All Purpose Ramps** can be taken outdoors for use with sand, water, and all sorts of natural materials. Offer them with the Tunnels and/or See Inside Pipe in an outdoor sand pit or mud kitchen. Mud, slurry, and pea gravel can be used with the Ramps. Children use them to make channels in the sand, as parts for constructing water courses, and for experimenting with force and motion while using balls, pinecones, and seed pods. Use natural or playground materials to build ramp support structures, such as tree stumps, a natural hillside, or sand pails.



Offer the two sections of **See Inside Pipe** along with All Purpose Ramps and Tunnels in the sand pit, sensory table, or mud kitchen space outdoors. Or display them with other tools such as scoops, measuring cups, and spoons. They can be used along with other parts to create water systems on a chain link fence by attaching them with double sided hook and loop tape or string.



The **Small Funnel Stand** can be easily moved to your outdoor space as weather permits. Use it in a sensory table or a large sensory bin for individual or small group play. Offer children small sections of the plastic tubing you have on hand to attach to the bottoms of the funnels for exploration of the flow of the water. Offer the Small Funnel Stand with See Inside Pipe, Tunnels, Stackable Pans or with cups, bowls, and other tools you keep outdoors for children's explorations. The Funnels can also be used to attach to a chain link fence along with See Inside Pipe and All purpose Ramps to create vertical water courses.



**Stackable Pans** will come in handy in a water table, sensory bin, or mud kitchen. Use them for holding seeds during gardening experiences, as sand molds, and for collecting natural materials.



**Tunnels** can be used outdoors with sand, water, or other natural materials. Offer them with scooping tools and See Inside Pipe, or All Purpose Ramps. Some children use them like they would a shovel to transport sand, as sand molds for the walls of sand castles and other sand structures, and as troughs for plastic animal figures. They can also be used for construction experiences with tree cookies, rocks, and outdoor builders such as wooden, foam, or plastic blocks.



## Use In Sand + Water

"Choose items that will excite children's curiosity and further their exploration."

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Use the **All Purpose Ramps** with wet or dry materials in your indoor or outdoor sensory table. Children will experiment with positioning the ramps to discover how the angle of the ramp can affect the flow of the materials. Offer with See Inside Pipe, Tunnels, Stackable Pans, and your own collection of scoops, spoons, and bowls.



Because **Count & Thread Stones** are crafted from a stone and resin mix they're sturdy enough for play with both sand and water. Use them in sensory tables, bins, or mud kitchen to inspire imaginative play and stories with sensory materials.



**See Inside Pipes** are translucent allowing children to see how sand, slurry or water flows. Offer them with bubble solution. Invite children to combine them with the funnels from the Small Funnel Stand or use them along with the Stackable Pans.



The **Small Funnel Stand** is perfect for literally elevating children's sand and water exploration. Wet and dry materials can be poured through the funnels or drain holes. Invite children to test whether materials will flow through or get stuck, taking a close look at the properties of the materials.



Use **Stackable Pans** for transferring wet and dry materials, as sand molds, and as sensory play props. They're sturdy enough for the rigors of outdoor play as well.



**Treasure Tubes** can be temporarily filled with water and small objects. Offer pipettes, eye droppers or small spoons to use. Empty the tubes after each use with water and allow to completely air dry.



**Tunnels** can be used with sand or water as chutes. Offer them with scooping tools and See Inside Pipe, or All Purpose Ramps in the sensory table or outdoors in the sandbox. Some children use them like they would a shovel to transport sand, as sand molds for building sand structures, and as troughs for plastic animals if available for sensory exploration.



Place **Water Canvas** in a clean sensory table or use in an existing shallow bin or waterproof tray. Offer pipettes or eyedroppers along with small bowls of water to investigate water droplets and evaporation.

## Use In Toys + Games

"As children experiment with toys and games they invent more and more ways to use the materials, gaining new skills as they play."

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**Antics Blocks** have drawings of marching ants printed on all six sides. Children arrange them end to end, in groups, stacks, or multiple configurations. Offer them in a bin or basket near other tabletop blocks you have such as traditional alphabet blocks. Or offer them along with dice so children can invent their own games using this exclusive set.



A loose parts collection in your Toys and Games area should definitely include **Building Sticks**. Made of cherry, maple, and walnut, the pieces can be sorted, or used for counting. Offer a basket of Building Sticks along with other small parts to encourage children to make and repeat patterns and temporary compositions. These handmade pieces are perfect for small world and story making experiences.



**Count & Thread Stones** are for exactly what their name implies, counting. They feature holes for threading and are often used by children to combine with other threading materials such as beads, spools, and the Wheels Pack. Use the Stackable Pans to encourage sorting the stones by shape or color. In addition to the laces and for variety, offer the stones with pipe stems, drinking straws, or thin rods you may have on hand.



The striking **Harlekino** placement cards are perfect for the Toys and Games area. Children can sort the cards by shape, size, and color. Adults can prompt this type of thinking by simply placing one of each of the cards with the largest shape into a tray, bin or basket and leave the remainder of the cards in a pile on the table. The cards are especially dynamic on a lit surface. Children will often use them with small loose parts or counters, arranging the parts on top of the individual geometric shapes as they practice their own games of one-to-one correspondence and matching.



**Marble Maze Ramps** can be offered in a large basket or bin along with a small container used to hold the marbles. This item is well suited for play with pairs or small groups of children to promote cooperative play, persistence, and communication skills. Once children are used to placing the maze like pieces, offer a large die and introduce turn taking. As the die is rolled each child places that number of maze ramps in order or runs that many marbles down the course.





Position the **Rainbow Pegboard** and bag of rainbow colored acrylic pegs on a shelf top or small table so that children can access the materials from both sides. As pegs are arranged in the pegboard or on a table, they'll naturally be counted, sorted by color, arranged to make rows and shapes, and used abstractly. Adults can remove the feet of the pegboard and lay it flat on top of the table or light panel to offer children variation. Pegs are used on their own or combined with other small colorful loose parts, counters, and manipulatives.



Used all over the classroom, the **Stackable Pans** can be very useful in the Toys and Games area for displaying small manipulatives, tabletop construction pieces, counters, and other loose parts. Try leaving them empty and in a stack on the shelf for children to use on their own for sorting and transferring.



Arrange the **Treasure Tubes** on shelves to display children's collections of natural small parts. Or leave them empty along with baskets or bins filled with interesting pieces to use for counting, sorting, and patterning such as buttons, beads, and colorful gems.



Cut **Water Canvas** to fit individual trays with fine tipped brushes and small cups of water only. Arrange these on the table along with wooden letters, numbers, word cards or similar materials. Using the manipulatives as a guide, children can practice making letter and number forms, shapes, and symbols, or their own lines and abstract forms. Any use of these materials will support pre-writing skill development.



Offer the **Wheels Pack** along with other existing wooden parts from your collection. Use them with a balance or scale, sorting bowls, or trays. Wheels can also be used for lacing experiences on their own or with the Count & Thread Stones. Children often use wheels for patterning, sorting, counting, and small construction. Suggest to children that they use the Wheels as game parts when designing their own games.

