

Dear Families,

The use of open-ended materials is an important component of our free choice play and discovery centers.

Open-ended materials provide students with endless opportunities for complex thinking, inventing, communication and collaboration. *Open-ended materials* are added to free choice play and discovery (STEM) centers to encourage problem solving and to expand the children's imaginations.

Below is a list of some of the many possible materials you may already have in your homes that could now be repurposed, but do not feel that you must stick to just this list. Allow your child to help you gather materials and help him/her to be creative!

We would greatly appreciate your donations to start immediately and continue as you gather and find more materials.

Sincerely,

	Wood and Natural Materials	Plastic
	Shells	Plastic Baby Food Containers
	Dried Flower Petals	Bubble Wrap
	Flower Seed Packets	Straws
	Corks/ clothespins	Bottle and Jar Lids such as lid to a peanut butter jar
	Pine Cones	
	Feathers	Baubles/Beads - Ribbon
	Twigs/Sticks	Large Wooden Beads
	Rocks/Pebbles	Yarn/ Ribbon/ Lace
	Feathers	Buttons/ Beads
	Wooden Letters	Sequins
	Tree stumps	Thread Spools/ Bobbins
	Tree branches cut into 1" thick pieces	Gem Stones (usually placed in bottom of a vase)
	Large wooden beads	
Wooden Frames	Paper/Cardboard	
	Tissue Paper/ Textured Paper/ Gift Wrap	
Metal	Cards	
Screws, Nuts, Bolts, Washers	Cardboard	
Brackets	Cardstock	
Screwdrivers/ Small hammers	Cardboard Tubes (paper towel and toilet paper inserts)	
Wire	Paper Towel Rolls	
Metal Rings and Jump Rings	Corrugated Cardboard	
Metal Silver Trays	Envelopes of all Sizes	
Nails, Nuts and Bolts (great for sorting!)	Newspaper	
Styrofoam (although not metal, it is great for hammering nails into to work on fine motor)	Sticker Letters	
Doorknobs	Fabric	
Keys	Fabric Swatches	
Metal Muffin Tins/Pie Plates	Curtains	
Jar lids such as lid to a jelly jar	Sheets	
Tin cans (clean and without sharp edge along the rim)	End pieces from sewing- does not matter how small	
Lids to tin cans such as a soup can	Carpet Samples	
	Upholstery swatches	
Foam		
Packing Foam (not peanuts)		
Egg Cartons		
Styrofoam that comes with packaging of breakable items		