



## The Marketplace of Local Materials

Using readily accessible and locally available materials is at the core of culturally and personally relevant creative experiences

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### Readily accessible and locally available

- Young children are inventive in using materials they find around them as tools for play and learning.
- Materials discarded by others as waste or junk, provoke children's individual thinking, play and learning
- Toys/ play materials do not need to be expensive so that children can benefit



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### Why using what is readily accessible and locally available?

- It is cost effective and fun
- Provides children with a variety of stimulating materials
- We become responsible to our environment
- Provide children with quality play based early learning opportunities

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### How to get the locally available materials?

- Collect objects that are safe for children to manipulate with in early learning settings
- Encourage children and parents to make or find their own props and explore the materials around them
- Partner with a local shop or other business that may have excess supplies to donate to your toy library

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## Important points to consider

- Materials should reflect and respect the racial, ethnic, cultural, linguistic and family diversity of the toy library and of the broader community?
- Materials should reflect the children's current interests and help spark new interests?
- Materials should allow children to play in a variety of ways?
- Materials should help us reach important learning goals for children?

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## Culturally relevance-But what does this mean?

- choice of materials should reflect the backgrounds, knowledge and experiences of the diverse children/ adults who make use of your toy library

## Linked to children's interests-personal relevance

- Children learn best when adults incorporate their interests.
- provide materials that capture children's interests and extend their learning.
- By incorporating children's interests when using locally available materials, you can help children make connections that extend their learning to new areas

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## How do we create creative learning experiences?

- All children are born with capacity to become creative engaged lifelong learners
- Creativity is nurtured and grown across childhood
- Our role is to help children learn and grow in creative ways



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## How do we create creative learning experiences?

- Provide opportunities for children to create that's the way they become creative thinkers
- Provide concrete objects to manipulate with
- Children get ideas, make ideas and create ideas
- Give children a language to express their own creative thinking process/learning process



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### Materials that spark creative experiences



### Materials that spark creativity

- Dress-up clothes
- Large boxes
- Found objects in the home
- Arts and crafts materials
- Items that are "open-ended" or can be used in a variety of different ways (e.g., blocks from off cut wood)



### How can Toy Libraries promote use of local materials to prepare children for coding?

- Think about why you have selected the materials in your toy library
- Ask yourself: how will this material prepare the child to code and learn
- Materials in your locality are powerful tools for learning



### How can Toy Libraries promote use of local materials to prepare children for coding?



Name of material	Where from	Preparation and storage	Learning activity	Vocabulary	Concepts
Beads	beads made locally	store in basket, box, bag or on rice tray.	threading	How many more	Classification sorting, matching quantity, ordering, estimating, counting objects, pattern making
Cardboard and other tube	Tailor's shop	Use in natural way or colour by adding dye or paint	Encourage child to experiment	Colour, pattern, size, same, long shorter, fewer	Classification, Sorting, matching, quantity, ordering, counting



Name of material	Where from	Preparation and storage	Learning activity	Vocabulary	Concepts
Wooden blocks, regular and irregular sizes	locality or carpenter	Cut to manageable regular lengths. Smooth any rough edges Check safety Store in baskets, boxes, on shelves	Encourage child to experiment on floor on table, to build, stack, make patterns, order.	Feel, texture, hard, shape, space, pattern, tower, wall, stack, balance, bridge, structure	measurement , length, shape, height and volume, geometrical expression
Small sticks	From the locality	Check for cleanliness and safety	Encourage child to experiment	Colour, pattern, size, same, long, short	spatial awareness, counting objects etc



### How does the use of locally available materials prepare children for coding?

- Locally available materials develops the following skills which are essential for coding.
- Language
- Problem solving-coding solves real-life problems
- Maths and science -A lot of math and science are embedded in coding
- Creativity-Unique design projects and game development



