

**Considerations for the Selection of Program Materials
 for Home-Based Child Care Participants**

Purchasing high quality, developmentally appropriate learning materials for home-based child care environments can be a challenging task. Doing so on a limited budget can feel entirely impossible. These materials serve as an incentive for provider participation and engagement and as a vehicle of professional learning through careful observation and self-reflection. Paired with the support of a nurturing and responsive caregiver, they facilitate children’s growth and development.

These guidelines are intended to provide support in the selection of high-impact materials, items that serve many functions, can be used by the widest range of ages, and possess the industrial strength to withstand years of disinfecting and steadfast “exploration” by many young children. Use these recommendations to help you curate curricular bundles that support the best outcome for home-based child care providers and the children in their care for years to come.

Attributes of Quality Materials Best Suited for Home-Based Child Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Open-ended, child can use in multiple ways ★ Durable ★ Easy to clean ★ Developmentally appropriate ★ Age appropriate ★ Appropriate reflection of the culture and language of community ★ Reflect the interests of children in care
Developmental Domains
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Social + Emotional ★ Physical Development + Health ★ Language + Communication + Literacy ★ Cognitive ★ Approaches to Learning
Developmental Ages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Developmentally appropriate for children in care ★ Infant ★ Toddler ★ Pre-K ★ School Age Care (K-2)

Health + Safety

- ★ Be mindful of toys with little pieces that could break off and pose a choking hazard. If a piece can fit inside a toilet paper roll, it's small enough to obstruct a child's airway
- ★ Surfaces free of unreachable crevices and fashioned from materials that are easy to sanitize

Anti-Bias

- ★ Reflective of the cultures and languages of children in care
- ★ Respectful of all cultures and abilities
- ★ Reflective of the interests of children currently in care
- ★ Avoid tokenism or invisibility of any group
- ★ Considers the effect of the material on children's self and social identities
- ★ Free of stereotypes, or oversimplified generalizations about a particular identity group (e.g., gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, ability/disability), which carry disparaging messages and apply them to all people in the group
- ★ ParentChild+ created this article on selecting non-bias books
- ★ For more information, refer to this resource by early childhood Louise Derman-Sparks, the authority on anti-bias education in early childhood education