

Action for Children



Engaging Reading Spaces for Child Care Settings



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Cozy Reading Nook

Transform a corner of your space with soft cushions, inviting rugs, and a variety of books within easy reach. Use gentle lighting to create a peaceful atmosphere where children can relax, unwind, and engage with the stories. Make the space cozy, but large enough for a few children to share books together.

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Interactive Sensory Reading Area

For infants and younger toddlers, provide board books with vibrant pictures, photos, and textures, surrounded by soft toys. Include child-safe mirrors and invite babies to compare their faces to the photos of babies in their books. Soft mats and snug cushions invite them to touch and see, while vibrant illustrations and textures spark curiosity and connection.

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Circle Time Reading

Arrange chairs or mats in a circle to facilitate interactive read-aloud sessions. Bring stories to life with props and puppets. Ensure all children have a clear view of the reader and the book so everyone can join in the fun. Engage children in the read-aloud by pausing to ask questions and encourage children to make connections to their own experience. "Oh, how do you think Lisa felt when she lost Corduroy? Have you ever lost a favorite toy?"

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Spread Books Around

Books don't have to only stay in the reading area. You might have construction books in the block area, books about doctors and veterinarians in dramatic play, or books on clouds on the window sill. By strategically placing books throughout the space, you create a literacy-rich environment that encourages exploration and discovery in every corner.

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Outdoor Storytelling

Take stories outside for a breath of fresh air as the weather warms up! Set up an outdoor reading circle with picnic blankets or benches, surrounded by nature if possible, to provide a refreshing environment for reading stories aloud. Put a collection of durable books in a basket or wagon for easy carrying. Children will be happy to help you carry them in and out.

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