

DAYCARE ACTIVITIES & GAMES

SPECIAL DAY

Each morning, I draw a name out of a cup and it's that child's special day. They pass out the morning juice to all the other kids, pick a friend to sit on the counter stools at meal time, go first at anything we do, help set the table at lunch time, pick the movie if we watch one, etc.

TOYS

I have so many toys and games for the kids, that I couldn't possibly keep them all in the playroom. I spend between \$900 and \$1,000 per year to buy the kids the newest things to come out, things that are of special interest to them and to keep things updated, safe and in working order. Below is a sampling of the items I have for the children to play with which I rotate on a regular basis to keep the children's interest:

Cars & Trucks	Building blocks	Hot Wheel City
Potato Heads	Take-Apart Vehicles	Magnetic Boards
Farm	Puzzles	Dolls & Stuffed Animals
Legos	Ping Pong	Lincoln Logs
Chain links	Pokemons	Train Sets
Lots of Barbies	Doctor kit	Construction Toys
Tea Party Set	Doll House and people	Kitchen w/dishes & food
Books & Books w/tapes	Dance & Sing-along tapes	Star Wars Pod Racers
Table Top Soccer	Walkie Talkies	Polly Pockets
Light-up Castle w/characters	Chalkboard	Electronic Book Reader
Bratz	Little People Play Sets	
V-Tech V-Smile	Read-Along Teddy Bear	

ARTS & CRAFTS

Weekly take-home craft projects	Digi Draw	Drawing Boards
Water color paints	Lite Bright	Shrinky Dinks
Coloring Sheets/Books	Play-Doh	Stencils
Colored pencils Markers/Crayons	Finger paints	Beading
Color Wonder Art	Rubber Stamping	Spirograph

BOARD GAMES

CandyLand	Hi Ho Cherry-O	Monopoly Jr.
Letter Perfect	Connect 4	Alphabet Bingo
Number Bingo	Monster Mash	Trouble
Perfection	Card games	Sorry
Lucky Ducks	Pokemon Board Game	Guess Who
Twister	Yahtzee	Chess/Checkers
Racko	Operation	Mastermind
	Tiddlywinks	Chinese Checkers

DRAMATIC PLAY

Restaurant	Airport	Grocery Store
Dress-up Clothes	Doctor's Office	Beauty Salon
Police Station	Fire Station	Post Office

COMPUTER PLAY

I have 2 laptop computers that I set up on the kitchen table and give each kid a turn. I use JumpStart educational software. This gives the kids good experience getting comfortable using a computer and learning how to control the mouse.

OUTSIDE

We go outside at least once per day unless it's raining or the temperature is below zero windchill. I have a jungle gym, play house, baseballs & bats, kick balls, footballs, hippity hop, dolls and strollers, bubbles, cars & trucks, sand buckets and shovels and more. In the summer, we run through the sprinklers and play with squirt guns when it's hot. We also walk to the playground at the end of our street and to the WaterPad at Riverside Park.

Outdoor winter activities include sledding, snow block makers and shovels.

MOVIES & TELEVISION

We watch PBS, Nick, Jr. or the Disney Channel first thing in the morning as everyone is getting here and then at lunch time while I need to be in the kitchen.

We save movies for rainy days or snow/cold days. A movie is also shown at nap--time for those kids over four who are no longer napping.

HOLIDAY PARTIES

A special party *is* planned for each major holiday.