



GENERAL CLASSROOM SUPPLY LIST FOR EARLY YEARS AND PRIMARY GRADE TEACHERS

This resource aligns
with Principle 5:

Optimize for Organization

[Purpose]

Make classroom organization a tool that encourages student autonomy and supports independence.

Creating a calm, prepared, and thoughtfully arranged classroom environment is essential for you. This list brings together key supplies that support independent learning, creativity, and a connection with natural materials, helping you foster a learning space where children can explore, create, and grow in an intentional environment. With these essentials on hand, you can feel organized, ready, and focused on supporting each child's journey.

This list has been curated with an emphasis on open-ended, natural materials, sensory experiences, and tools that encourage children's independence and creativity.

Start by organizing each item in accessible trays or baskets to create a space where children can easily choose and explore materials on their own.

With these supplies, you'll have a well-equipped, peaceful, and stimulating classroom, supporting the holistic growth and creativity that these educational philosophies emphasize.



Student Supplies

ART AND CREATIVE MATERIALS

- * High-quality crayons (large and small boxes) — 6–8 boxes
- * Watercolor paints (nontoxic, earth tones, and primary colors) — 6 sets
- * Tempera paint (assorted colors) — 10 bottles
- * Natural clay (air-dry) — 5–10 pounds
- * Colored pencils — 12 packs
- * Soft brushes in various sizes— 12–18 brushes of each size
- * Drawing paper (heavyweight) — 6 packs
- * Scissors (blunt and pointed tips)— 16 pairs of each (always have 4–5 pairs for left-handed students)
- * Wooden or metal easels — 3–5 easels
- * Textured papers and fabrics for collage and sensory projects — 2 packs per material
- * Glue sticks and tape — 6 packs of each

MATH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

- * Wooden counting beads — 5–8 sets
- * Sandpaper letters and numbers — 2 sets
- * Wooden number blocks and counting objects — 10–15 sets
- * Tracing boards for letters and numbers — 6–8 boards
- * Small chalkboards and chalk — 12 boards, 6 boxes of chalk
- * Moveable alphabet letters (wood with magnetic tape, if you want) — 2 sets
- * Writing utensils (pencils, erasers, sharpeners) — 30 each

CONSTRUCTION AND MANIPULATIVES

- * Wooden blocks and building sets — 3–5 large sets
- * Loose parts (stones, wooden discs, corks, shells) — assorted quantities
- * Magnetic tiles and rods — 4 sets
- * Fabric pieces and large scarves for fort building and imaginative play— 12–15 pieces (Your local textile shop might offer free pieces.)

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT AND FURNISHINGS

- * Low bookshelves for child-accessible storage — 2-4
- * Area rugs and soft mats for reading and sensory corners — 3-5 rugs
- * Indoor plants for connection to nature — 6-10 small, nontoxic plants
- * Quiet corner cushions for calming space — 6-8 cushions
- * Clips for displaying children's artwork and projects — 20-25 clips

PRACTICAL SUPPLIES FOR PROJECTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- * Scissors (adult size) — 2 pairs with your name
- * Permanent markers for labeling — 1 big set
- * Glue sticks and tape (for quick repairs or labeling) — 10 glue sticks, 10 rolls of tape
- * Ruler and measuring tape — 1 each
- * Binder clips, paper clips, and push pins for organizing papers and displays — assorted set
- * Rubber bands for securing grouped materials — 1 pack

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- * Timer (I use my phone. From Monday to Friday, I have fourteen alarms during the day in school that keep me organized and always on time.)
- * Timer (sand timer is more visual for students) for managing transitions and activity durations— 1-2
- * Laminator and laminating sheets for preserving materials — 1 laminator, 4-5 packs of sheets
- * Clear plastic sleeves for protecting reusable printables — 20 sleeves
- * Pocket chart or magnetic chart for managing schedules and classroom tasks — 1
- * Sticker rewards or stamps for positive reinforcement — 3-4 sets (I never reward my students with stickers. I offer a personalized sticky note or verbal positive reinforcement—cheaper and deeper!).

Teacher Supplies

TEACHER WELLNESS AND COMFORT

- * Comfortable cushion or seat pad for circle time or desk — 1 (I don't have a desk, I use an armchair or a high table. Students stand up if they want.)
- * Big reusable water bottle — 1
- * Snacks and tea or coffee stash for personal breaks
- * Mini first aid kit for quick access (bandages, hand sanitizer, etc.) — 1 kit
- * Hand cream and sanitizer — 1 of each, especially for colder months

TECHNOLOGY AND DOCUMENTATION

- * Digital camera or tablet for documenting student work and activities — 1
- * Laptop stand or tablet stand (if using a device regularly) — 1
- * USB drive or external hard drive for saving classroom photos and documents — 1
- * Wireless speaker for playing music, audiobooks, or mindfulness exercises — 1
- * Charging cables and power strip for devices — 1 of each

RESOURCE AND REFERENCE BOOKS

- * Curriculum and education books for planning and reflection — 5-7 key books
- * Real plants (difficult to kill, if it's possible)



Tips for Teachers:

Finding Your Organization Style

IDENTIFY YOUR ORGANIZATIONAL STYLE

- * Digital: If you prefer digital tools, explore apps like Google Classroom or Google Drive™ (my favorite) to organize lesson plans, student records, and resources.
- * Paper-based: If you prefer hands-on organization, use a dedicated teacher planner, labeled binders (total of three), and notebooks for different subjects or projects (total of two).

LESS IS MORE

- * Avoid accumulating multiple trays or bins, as they can quickly create clutter. Instead, prioritize a few essential bins for ongoing work, upcoming projects, and items for filing.
- * Use one “in progress” tray and one “to file” folder to limit pileups and stay efficient.
- * We should be able to have a completely empty desk/table and to keep our stuff in one single cabinet. No more than that.

EVALUATE YOUR PRINTING NEEDS

- * Before printing, ask yourself if you need the full quantity of copies or if a smaller amount will work.
- * Consider using a reusable plastic sleeve for worksheets and templates that students can write on with a dry-erase marker, saving on paper and printing.

LAMINATION AND PAPER CHOICES

- * Avoid laminating unless it's for materials you'll use multiple times or in sensory areas. Printing on thick paper in color often holds up well without lamination.
- * Laminate only high-use items and use cardstock or heavier paper for things like flash cards, schedules, or small posters to maintain durability.

MAXIMIZE REUSABILITY

- * Use clear plastic sleeves or pocket protectors for papers you might need repeatedly; students can use dry-erase markers directly on these.
- * Consider digital displays or whiteboards for showing visual aids instead of printing them.

SET UP A “QUICK ACCESS” STATION

- * Have a small, easily accessible area with must-haves like pens, sticky notes, scissors, and a timer. This saves time and reduces movement around the room when you need something quickly.
- * This can be a small trolley or an open cabinet. That's it. We don't need all the things we tend to accumulate. If you haven't touched something for a year, you probably don't need it.

REFLECT REGULARLY

- * Take a few minutes each week to reflect on what is working and what isn't. Adapt your organization system based on what you're using and what's sitting untouched.
- * After each term, revisit your materials. Decide what to keep, donate, or recycle.
- * One morning each week, take thirty minutes to declutter your space. A clear, organized area is better for your mental health and your students' mental health.

