



## Stocking Your Unschooling Space

Children thrive in an environment that is rich with opportunities to explore and create. When it comes to stocking your unschooling space, focus on supplies that allow for *open-ended* and *self-directed* exploration. In other words, stock stuff that kids can use in lots of different ways without needing a lot of help from adults.

Keep in mind that the following list is not exhaustive, and it's also not mandatory! Don't worry about what you can and can't supply. Children are extremely resourceful. You'd be amazed by what they can create with the simplest of materials, such as a cardboard box, a blanket and a bathrobe tie! Provide what you can, but leave room for their creative juices to flow.

### General


- scissors
- colored masking tape, scotch tape
- glue sticks or bottles
- stapler
- hole punch
- paper of various type & style (construction paper, newsprint, tracing paper, lined paper, envelopes, index cards, post-it notes, graph paper, cardboard, manilla paper, etc.)

### Writing Utensils

- pencils
- pens
- crayons (chunky, thin, finger-tip)
- colored pencils
- bingo markers
- markers (chunky, fine-tip, scented, fabric, window)


### Arts & Crafts

- dried beans
- colored macaroni
- foam shapes
- pom-poms

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- buttons
  - craft sticks
  - tissue paper
  - felt
  - scraps of fabric
  - pipe cleaners
  - wiggly eyes
  - straws
  - toothpicks
  - cotton bolls
  - Q-tips
  - beads
  - yarn
  - duct tape
  - craft cups
  - play-doh
  - floam
  - clay
  - nuudles
  - paints (watercolors, tempera, finger paint etc.)
  - stamps & ink pads
  - cardboard tubes
  - shaving cream

### **Math/Science**

- magnifying glasses
- magnets
- play-clock with movable hands
- tan-grams
- balance scale
- pattern blocks
- building blocks
- calendar
- money (play or real)
- puzzles
- rulers
- counting bears
- measuring cups/spoons

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- microscope
  - binoculars
  - dot-to-dot books
  - maze books
  - sudoku books
  - deck of cards
  - board games (Monopoly Jr., Mastermind, Clue, Cribbage, Mille Bornes, Battleship, Perfection, Jenga, Don't Break the Ice, Trouble, There's a Moose in the House, Wig Out, Uno, Guess Who, Yahtzee, Connect Four checkers, chess)

### **Language Arts/Social Studies**

- child's map poster
- globe (a soft, stuffed globe is a great choice for younger children)
- World History in Twelve Hops: Tim's Journey Through History (story and magnetic puzzle)
- The Little Man in the Map
- United States/World Puzzles (such as Usborne Animal Jigsaw Atlas and The World floor puzzle by Crocodile Creek)
- Liberty's Kids video series (American Revolution)
- board games (Mad Dash, Catan, Risk)
- story cubes
- magnetic letters
- magnetic poetry word kit
- tracing letters
- wipe off letter placemats
- alphabet dice
- alphabet puzzles
- Mad-libs
- crossword puzzles
- writing prompts (such as "Imagination Questions" card deck)
- word games (Alphabet Soup, Scrabble Jr., Boggle, Last Letter, Blurble, Taboo)
- chalk
- letter stamps/ink pad
- literature of varied types and subjects (picture books, graphic novels, chapter books, non-fiction, easy-readers, poetry, audio books, interactive e-books)