CENTER-BASED ENVIRONMENTS

CLERC CENTER
AT GALLAUDET

Playgroup Materials Checklist

FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INFANTS AND TODDLERS

This checklist helps providers prepare an early intervention playgroup space with materials that support accessible communication, shared attention, sensory engagement, and family participation, creating a language-rich environment where everyday play promotes interaction, connection, and early communication development.

Core Play Materials

- ◯ Board books with clear, simple images
- ◯ Real-life photo books (people, routines, animals, community)
- ◯ Pretend play sets (food, kitchen items, animals, vehicles, dolls)
- ◯ Open-ended toys (blocks, stacking cups, scarves, containers)
- ◯ Cause-and-effect toys (pop-up, light-up, movement-activated)
- ◯ Puppets or dolls for modeling routines and interaction

Visual Communication Supports

- ◯ Child name/photo cards with name sign (if applicable)
- ◯ Family photo cards with family member sign (this can be either a name sign if the person has one, or the sign for the type of family member)
- ◯ Visual schedule with interchangeable photos of staff modeling the sign
- ◯ Emotion cards or feeling visuals with photos of staff modeling the sign
- ◯ Mirrors at child height for imitation and attention (walls, bookshelves, on the floor for tummy time and facing the floor for infants on their back during play)
- ◯ Simple pictures showing routines (eat, play, clean up, more, finished) with photos of staff modeling sign

Multisensory Materials

- ◯ Soft rugs or mats to reduce background noise
- ◯ Cozy corner materials (pillows, soft seating)
- ◯ Light-up, touch-and-feel, or vibrating toys for visual/tactile feedback
- ◯ Musical toys with adjustable volume

Motor Play

- ◯ Sensory bins (dry textures, water play, scoops, containers)
- ◯ Soft climbing or gross-motor foam equipment
- ◯ Push/pull toys or ride-on toys
- ◯ Balls of different sizes and textures
- ◯ Tunnels or crawl spaces for movement play

Family Comfort and Engagement

- ◯ Comfortable adult seating within the play space
- ◯ Space for diaper bags, feeding supplies, and strollers
- ◯ Resource display
- ◯ Take-home handouts expanding on what was done for activities in the room
- ◯ Simple toys families can easily replicate at home (ideally using materials that are commonly found in family homes)
- ◯ Infographics posted throughout room at adult eye level describing materials, communication & engagement strategies, and tips

Provider Materials

- ◯ Posted visual routine for the session with photos of staff modeling signs
- ◯ Selected book and song/activity props for the day
- ◯ Small-group activity materials prepared in advance
- ◯ Observation notes or simple data sheet
- ◯ Cleaning and sanitizing supplies
- ◯ Take-home materials for families relevant to the activities in the room that day