



Discovery Table: Tiny Kindergarten 1

Recycled and natural materials are added. Children construct three-dimensional models of the kindergarten classroom.

Big Idea	Individuals, or citizens, come together to work, live, learn, and relate to each other in communities.
Guiding Questions	What does it mean to be a member of a community? Why is collaboration and working together important?
Vocabulary	<p>tools: objects used to accomplish something</p> <p>notice: to see, to pay attention to something</p> <p>search: to look for something</p> <p>curious: interested</p> <p>describe: to tell what someone or something is like</p> <p>disappear: to go completely away, to become unable to be seen</p> <p>object: a thing that can be seen and touched</p>
Materials and Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● sensory/discovery table, or tabletop tub(s) ● sand ● sand table tools, such as cups and scoops, small shovels, and/or plastic spoons ● craft sticks ● spray bottles filled with water ● natural materials (shells, acorns, sticks) ● recycled materials (small containers, small tiles, sanded wood scraps, buttons) ● bin or basket ● writing and drawing tools ● paper ● clipboards ● gloves, optional

	<p>When choosing recycled and natural materials, consider those that might be used to represent classroom features and furniture such as tables, chairs, and shelves. Wet the sand slightly. Arrange sand tools and writing and drawing tools so they are close at hand. Set up clipboards with paper.</p>
Intro to Centers	<p><i>Today at the Discovery Table you can use recycled and natural materials to construct a model of our classroom—a tiny kindergarten! What are some of the important features of our classroom? What furniture is important? What else would you want to include in a model?</i></p> <p>Show some of the available materials. <i>What do you think you might use to make the tables?</i></p> <p><i>Before you begin constructing your model, you might like to make a sketch of our classroom. If I were to do this, I might start with...</i></p> <p>Model sketching one part of the classroom. <i>Then I could look at my sketch as I build the model.</i></p>
During Centers	<p>Invite children to make plans before they start on their models with sand and props.</p> <p>As children work, ask them to identify which parts of the classroom they are representing. Ask them to suggest other materials that might be useful in making their models. Encourage them to work together and to give each other feedback.</p> <p>Take photos of the classroom models children build. Use these to relaunch the activity in Week 5.</p>
Facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How would you sketch the _____? How will your sketch help you construct your model? ● Which recycled and natural materials are useful here? ● What do you notice about these materials? ● What part of the classroom are you creating? Why did you choose that part?
Standards	<p>SL.1.K.a Participate in collaborative conversations about kindergarten topics and texts with peers, and adults in small and larger groups.</p> <p>SL.2.K.b Ask and answer questions in order to seek help, gather information, or clarify something that is not understood.</p> <p>SL.3.K.b Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.</p> <p>Civics and Government 1 Students understand key ideas and processes that characterize democratic government in the community and the United States by identifying community workers</p>

and volunteers and the roles they play in promoting the common good.

Geography 1 Students understand the nature and basic ideas of geography by identifying questions about their world and explaining that geography is the study of the Earth’s surface and peoples.

Geography 2 Students understand the influence of geography on individuals and their immediate surroundings by identifying the impacts of geographic features on individuals and families.

Notes