**Age:** Mobile Infants (8-18 months)

**Setting:** Daycare Center

Learning Center 1: Sound

Learning Center Description:

In this center, children will be exploring with various musical instruments. One staff member will be present to engage in conversation with effective questioning. Depending on the variety of instruments available, there may be anywhere from 3-5 infants participating. The anticipated time of exploration will be 5-10 minutes.

Learning Objectives:

-Cause & effect

-Responding to sound

Materials Needed:

-bell

-maraca/rattle

-xylophone

-tambourine

-pots/pans/plastic tubs

-wooden spoons

Learning Center 2: Independence

Learning Center Description/ Activity Step-by-Step: In this learning center, the children are given ample opportunities to enhance their independence. The center will be labeled with pictures that instruct where to build blocks, where to play dress-up, and where to use the art supplies. About 3-5 children can participate in the center at one time. The anticipated length of time that the children will be in the center is about 10-15 minutes.

Learning Objectives:

-Independence & control

-Parallel play with peers

Materials Needed:

-building blocks

-paper

-art supplies (paint, brushes, paint shirts, glue, pom-poms, etc.)

-“hero” dress-up clothes

Learning Center 3: Sorting Activity

Steps:

With a staff member, two children will be directed to sort the buttons according to color. The staff member will guide the discussion and assist the children in turn-taking. The estimated time of the activity will be about 5 minutes or more if the children want to dump the buttons out and try again.

Learning Objectives:

-Turn-taking skills

-Sorting using fine-motor skills

Materials Needed:

-button sorting cups (color-coordinated)

Learning Center 4: Cooperation Activity

Steps:

In this activity, children will be gathered into groups of 5-8 with one staff member directing. The staff member will share with the children the importance of working together and teach the students how to play the parachute game. After waving the parachute up and down a few times, the staff member will add a medium-sized bouncy ball onto the parachute so the children can watch how their actions affect the ball. The activity could last for 10-15 minutes with the variations of allowing one student at a time to run under the parachute.

Learning Objectives:

-Working together/playing together

-Cause & effect

-Large motor skills

Materials Needed:

-large sheet or slick parachute cloth

-medium bouncy ball

Learning Center 5: Cause & Effect

Learning Center Description:

The cause & effect manipulative play in this center includes the water and sand tables. The students are encouraged to play with others, but it is primarily used for individual exploration. A staff member can use effective questioning with the tools in the tables to build on cause & effect skills. This center will be used during the 10-15 minute free-play.

Learning Objectives:

-Cause & effect

-Cooperation

Materials Needed:

-water & sand tables

-sand toys (shovel, toy cars, funnels, spoons, bucket)

-water toys (rubber ducks, cups, sponges, covers with slits, plastic containers)