Materials that Spark Exploration

What do you need to spark exploration in your classroom? The answers are only bounded by your own creativity. Consider adding these materials to your Discovery Center or classroom to encourage explorations of how things move (Zan & Geiken, 2010):

- Wood cove molding of various lengths (this can become pathways or ramps for marbles or balls)
- Pieces of vinyl or plastic gutter materials (also for ramps or pathways)
- Marbles of various sizes
- Objects of various sizes, shapes, and textures (spools, blocks, plastic eggs)
- Divided organizers
- Large wood unit blocks
- Interlocking blocks
- Cardboard blocks
- Large sponges

Consider adding these materials to encourage exploration of water and its properties (Worth, 2010):

- Clear beakers
- Eye droppers
- Funnels
- Clear tubing
- Measuring cups
- Water table
- Hose

Consider adding these materials to encourage exploration of light and shadow:

- Flashlights
- Overhead projector
- Sheets (to serve as screens for projection)
- Shapes or shadow puppet ideas

Consider adding these materials to encourage exploration of earth and life sciences:

- Seeds or seedlings
- Dirt and potting soil
- Gardening tools
- Insects like snails or worms
- Composting materials