

## MANIPULATIVE AREA

*When a child works with toys and puzzles, he/she:*

- ↳ has an opportunity to work alone or together with other children.
- ↳ gains satisfaction in completing a puzzle or game and builds self-confidence.
- ↳ has an opportunity to improve eye-hand coordination.
- ↳ distinguishes and describes shapes.
- ↳ fits things together and takes them apart.
- ↳ develops an awareness of symmetry in one's own representations.
- ↳ compares and sorts objects into groups.
- ↳ uses and describes something in many different ways.
- ↳ recognizes and creates patterns.
- ↳ compares numbers and amounts.

*You can help as a volunteer by:*

- ↳ sitting with a child who would like or needs some help. These games may seem easy to you, but remember that they are a real challenge to the young child.
- ↳ encouraging and praising the child for his/her efforts and success. Just attempting to do an activity is the most important thing—not completing it correctly. It takes practice to learn how to do new things.
- ↳ helping the child learn to organize pieces of the game. Patience is the key.
- ↳ reminding, showing and helping children put away toys at clean up time. Shelves are clearly marked so that children can see where toys belong.

