



Cut along this line



Block Play

Children learn math and many other concepts during block play. Children's social and physical development is also enhanced as they stack blocks and work together on projects. Encourage children's creativity by providing various types of blocks and accessories for open-ended play.

Block can be made from:

- Wood • Foam • Plastic • Sponge

Recycle household items for block play:

- Shoeboxes • Milk Cartons • Oatmeal Containers • Margarine containers
- Paper bags stuffed with newspaper • Other miscellaneous boxes and containers

Block play accessories:

- Toy cars, trucks and other vehicles • Animals • People • Traffic signs • Doll furniture
- Scales • Carpet squares • Trays • Wallpaper samples • Baskets • Balls • Fabric
- Paper towels rolls • Pictures of buildings, cities, farms, etc. • Dramatic play props

Fold here to create 4x6 card

Shape and Seek (continued)

Block Play Activity Ideas

Ramp It – Create a variety of ramps with blocks. Roll a small ball, car, truck, etc. down the ramps. Which incline makes it roll slower? Faster?

How Tall? – Children stack blocks as tall as they are. How many blocks does it take?

Pictures and Posters – Large pictures and posters can stimulate play ideas. A large picture of a bridge or construction site may give children ideas about building. A poster of a farm with animals might suggest building a farm and homes for animals.

Dramatic Play Props – Props add stimulation to the block area. A fire hat or a stop sign can enrich play and link the block area with the dramatic play area. Placing them near each other is an excellent idea.

Sources:

Block Play Activities for Home, Child Care, or School. Stephens, Karen. *Child Care Information Exchange, Power of Play Library #1, #2, and #3.* 2002.

The Creative Curriculum for Family Child Care: 2nd edition: Volume 2: Routines and Experiences. Dodge, Diane Trister, Rudick, Sherrie, and Colker, Laura J. *Teaching Strategies, Inc.* 2009

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