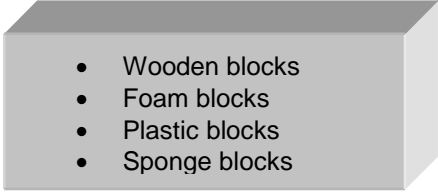


## ***Block Play...***

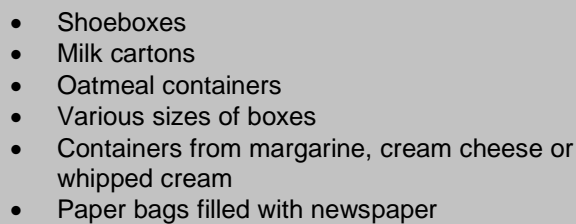
Children learn many concepts, especially math concepts through block play. Block play provides an excellent opportunity for social and physical development and enhances creativity.

Because blocks are an open-ended material, it is valuable to provide various types of blocks and accessories to children for block play.

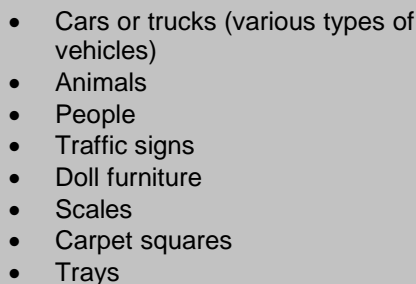
**Examples of blocks would be:**

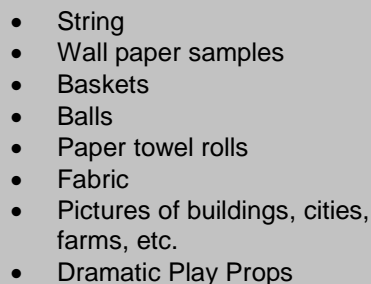
- 
- Wooden blocks
  - Foam blocks
  - Plastic blocks
  - Sponge blocks

**There are also many ways to make blocks by recycling materials like:**

- 
- Shoeboxes
  - Milk cartons
  - Oatmeal containers
  - Various sizes of boxes
  - Containers from margarine, cream cheese or whipped cream
  - Paper bags filled with newspaper

**Many accessories could also be added to enrich play and creativity, for example:**

- 
- Cars or trucks (various types of vehicles)
  - Animals
  - People
  - Traffic signs
  - Doll furniture
  - Scales
  - Carpet squares
  - Trays

- 
- String
  - Wall paper samples
  - Baskets
  - Balls
  - Paper towel rolls
  - Fabric
  - Pictures of buildings, cities, farms, etc.
  - Dramatic Play Props

### **Block Play Activities**

**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.

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: 2<sup>nd</sup> edition: Volume 2: Routines and Experiences.* Dodge, Diane Trister, Rudick, Sherrie, and Colker, Laura J. Teaching Strategies, Inc. 2009.