

Using Building Blocks and Other Construction Resources

Why this is important:

This is a really important activity for pre school children as it supports the foundations of developing Mathematical thinking and language. By building different constructions using blocks and other construction materials, children begin to develop mathematical language, problem solve, logic and reasoning as well as promoting imaginative play.

Try to do this activity every day for about 10 minutes per session. Choose a time when your child is not tired or hungry.

Before you start, resources you may want to use:

Construction materials such as building blocks of different shapes and sizes

Trains and Train tracks

Lego or Duplo Blocks

Recycling materials from around your home such as different sized food boxes, shoe boxes, clean yoghurt pots and paper towel tubes

Stacking cups and rings

8-20m

- Recognises big things and small things in meaningful contexts.

Through their everyday play your child is learning about big and small through exploring interesting things that are around them.

16-26m

- Uses blocks to create their own simple structures and arrangements.

Build towers together, encourage turn taking and model language, promoting words such as “Big” “Little” and “Tall”

22-36m

- Beginning to categorise objects according to properties such as shape or size.
- Begins to use the language of size.

Encourage organising and categorizing the blocks and or construction resources according to shape, size or colour into different boxes, baskets or piles.

You can also build towers just using a certain shape.

Promote the language of size such as big, little, small, tiny, tall, long and short.

“Please can you put all the big blocks together”, “Please can you find me the small circle” and “Look you have made a tall tower “. Praise your child for their achievements.

30-50m

- Shows an interest in shape and space by playing with shapes or making arrangements with objects.
- Uses positional language.

Whilst playing with blocks you may want to add small world play such as train tracks or the farm animals and other construction resources to extend play further and promote the language of size and positional language such as “Put the Horse on top of... behind... or in front of the the big square”.

40-60m

- Beginning to use mathematical names for ‘solid’ 3D shapes and ‘flat’ 2-D shapes, and mathematical terms to describe shapes.

Draw 2D shapes and challenge your child to find the equivalent shape in their block play. Use new vocabulary such as ‘cylinder’ & ‘cube’.

Early Learning Goal - Shape, Space and Measures

Children use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems. They recognise, create and describe patterns. They explore characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.