

Building With Blocks

You and your child will explore shapes and design while building with blocks.

Math and Science Connections

Problem solving: making structures balance through counting and trial and error

Communicating: talking about the shapes, sizes and number of blocks used

Asking questions like “What if...?” and “How many...?”

Recognizing patterns and relationships by talking about the blocks

Designing and making models

Physical science by exploring building materials

Design technology by noticing problems and coming up with possible design changes

What’s Needed

Let’s Try it Out With Towers and Bridges and wooden building blocks.

How To Do It

1. After reading *Let’s Try it Out With Towers and Bridges* together, take lots of time to explore the blocks with your child. What would your child like to build?

2. Allow your child plenty of time to build. Talk together about what’s next as your child places blocks on the structure. *Does the shape of the block make any difference in building? Which shapes are best for walls? Which are best for corners? Which are best for openings? What happens when the structure gets really tall? What do you think is the most important block in a structure? Why?*

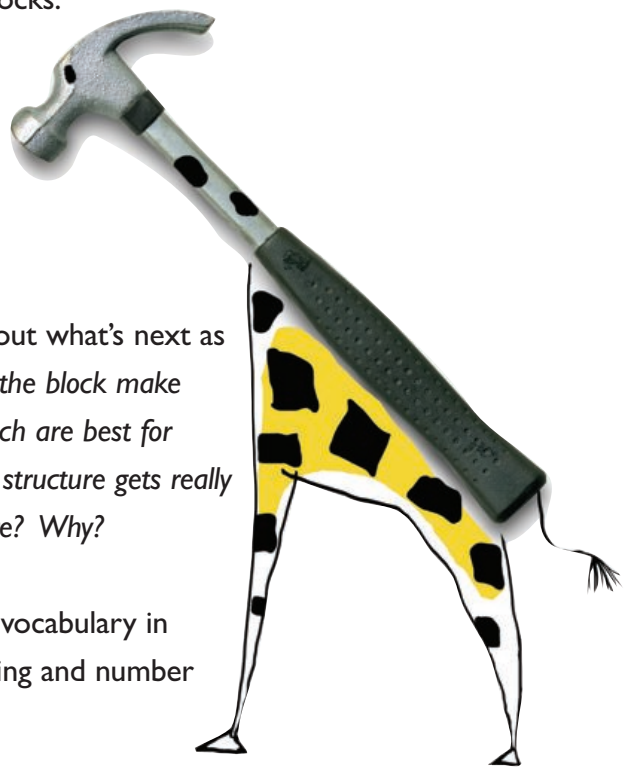
3. As you build with your child, try to use math and science vocabulary in your conversation: positional and comparative words, counting and number words and words about color, shape and size.

4. Make connections between what your child builds and buildings in books and the real world:

That looks like the firehouse next door.

That’s like the Three Bears’ house!

Is that an apartment house? Where would you put the doors?



5. Ask open-ended questions:

What if you used a square block there?

What would happen if you used a different-shaped block here?

Why did you use larger blocks at the bottom of the structure?

How could you make the building more sturdy?

Extend the Learning

Gather non-traditional materials for more building projects: empty cereal boxes and other food containers, fabric, blocks, straws, construction paper, cardboard, wood scraps—any materials that can be used for building. Also provide tape, crayons and markers.

