

Building With Blocks

Goal: Children combine blocks into a variety of shapes and structures.

What's needed: Sets of solid wooden building blocks and drawing materials.

1. Put out all the blocks and let children build.
2. Ask children to describe what they are doing as they build. Ask:

Tell me about your building.

Why did you use this block here?

I noticed you used two rectangles. How many different kinds of blocks did you use?

3. Encourage children to predict and go further. Ask:

What do you think would happen if...?

4. Take time for children to see and discuss each other's buildings. Ask:

**Which building is tallest? Shortest?
How can we measure our buildings?**

Have children make drawings of their buildings to take home. You can also use the drawings to make a display of the buildings.



From one librarian:

After reading the stories we talked about houses and what they're made of, who lives in them and how to build them. I put out building materials: wooden blocks, foam blocks and linking cubes. We practiced making different kinds of structures. I also put out a wooden layered puzzle on how a house is built, and some of the children did the puzzle with me. We also discussed tools and what they're used for.

Houses are something that all children are familiar with and building is always fun! A challenge for me is keeping children focused on one idea (like balance or height). Instead, we often have a creative building free-for-all! I try to use what they're already doing, and tie in concepts, but I often end up listening to their interactions with each other. I'm going to do building in my summer program too, and I'll add some ideas I've been working on. Each time I do a program, I think of improvements for the next time!