

Big Idea: Block Play

Is block play more than just towers that come crashing down?

Block play provides open ended learning experiences that develop conceptual understanding. Young children create, solve problems, experiment, test, adapt and explain. These experiences engage a child's brain to support the development of processing pathways.

Block play supports learning in the areas of STEM, mathematics, literacy, gross and fine motor skills.

Language examples to use and share includes:

STEM – balance, gravity, connect, predict, design, cause, effect, tower, crash

Mathematics – match, pattern, add, take, rectangle, square, triangle, cube, pyramid, cylinder, tall, taller, smallest, more, less, same, next to, on top, underneath

Literacy – using language to explain the process of building a structure and about the final product structure itself. A song like 'build it up, build up, build it higher' could also be sung.

Blocks don't have to be wooden, they can be plastic such as lego/duplo, they could also be empty cardboard boxes.

As an added challenge use pictures of different structures to try and recreate

Early Years Learning Framework Outcomes:

OUTCOME 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

1.2 Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency

OUTCOME 4: Children are confident and involved learners:

4.1 Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, co-operation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity

4.2 Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, enquiry, experimentation, hypothesizing, researching and investigating

4.3 Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another