



CONSTRUCTION BLOCK BUILDING

Suits ages 16 - 36 months



What you will need:

- Building blocks
- Animals
- People

What you do:

1. Prepare your area with lots of different blocks of different shapes and sizes.
2. When your child is engaged in play with the blocks ask them questions to support their understanding of both colours and shapes.
3. When your child is building ask them what they are making, this provides opportunity to add in different toys and extend your child's learning. For example if they say they are building a zoo, ask them if they need anything else? Keep your questions open ended and allow your child to tell you what they need – they may not want animals in their zoo for example.
4. Support your child in thinking about what else they need to build to create their small world area.
5. When your child is building, encourage them to count their blocks with you, name the colours they have and shapes being used.
6. If you have a younger child they may love to build towers and knock them down, this is part of their development; encourage them to see how tall they can build their towers before knocking them down. Playing with building blocks is a great way to start to introduce simple shapes if you have a younger child.

Areas of development which are supported through construction play range from mathematics, understanding of the world and expressive arts and design.

Your child will develop their mathematical development through; being encouraged to count the number of blocks used to make a tower and by talking about different shapes and sizes of blocks.

Furthermore, through supporting your child/children to make believe in their construction play you will be supporting their imagination and creativity skills.