



Block Play

While children play with blocks, they are learning math skills, problem solving, developing physical and social skills. The child can explore and build in any way they want.

Infant

- Explore a block with hands/mouth.
- Stack and tumble soft blocks.
- Bang two blocks together.
- Put blocks into a container and dump them out.

Toddler

- Make a train out of blocks.
- Measure body length with blocks.
- Make a bridge out of blocks.
- Discover shapes with blocks.
- Introduce "directional words" (over, under, next to, inside, etc.).

Preschooler

- Promote dramatic play by adding figures (people, animals, etc.).
- Introduce concept of opposites (small/tall, wide/narrow towers).
- Act out Mother Goose rhymes using blocks.
- Introduce counting skills (one-to-one concept).



Want more ideas?
www.topekapublicschools.net, www.ercrefer.org
or, watch TPS TV (cable 14)



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Play With Me!

A child who is playing is learning to experience a new world. Playing fosters a child's separate identity from their parents. It can be observed in many forms: building with blocks, making believe, exploring the outdoors and developing fine motor skills. When there is play, there's wonderful growth and activity in the brain.

What skills do children learn while playing?

- Problem solving
- Playing with others
- Imagination
- Dealing with emotions
- Creativity
- Task completion

What questions encourage thinking?

- What are you doing?
- Why do you think that happened?
- Can we do it another way?

What positive responses promote "trying?"

- Good thinking!
- Nice try! or Give it another try!
- That's a way to use your brain!
- You must be very proud of yourself!

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