

A Letter to Families About Block Play

Dear families,

There's a reason that generations of children have loved building with blocks!

When children lift, stack, sort, organize, count, and move blocks, they explore a variety of math and science concepts—quantity, size, shape, weight, mass, space, balance, and gravity, just to name a few—in fun, age-appropriate ways.

Our classroom Block area has a variety of blocks that the children can build with. The children also enjoy adding other materials from around our classroom—art supplies and writing tools, toy vehicles, animals, and even plastic food!—to help them create whatever scenes they imagine.

The next time you visit our classroom, please take the time to visit our Block area. Meanwhile, you can encourage your children to learn from block play by providing building materials at home and talking with your child about building.

What You Can Do at Home

- Ask your child how he decides what he wants to build, how he knows what to add to it, and how he knows when it's finished.
- Ask your child about the children she works with in the Block area and whether they work together on a single project or independently on separate projects. Ask how they make those decisions and what they do if they ever disagree.
- Whenever you travel—whether on foot or in a vehicle—point out roads, buildings, and construction sites. Talk about what you see and ask your child how she thinks those things are planned and created.
- Identify a place at home where your child can practice building. Remember, blocks don't need to come from a store. Empty boxes—along with toy vehicles, animals, or action figures—can provide hours of engaging, meaningful play. You just might want to join in on the fun!