



Early Learning Matters

Because parents are their children's first, best teachers.

Building Outside the Blocks



Children can have a fun learning experience by building and stacking with things other than just traditional building blocks. Help your child find objects from around your home to build structures: cardboard boxes, empty cereal boxes, shoe boxes, etc make great “building blocks”. Be sure to tape down all openings.

Try using rectangular sponges for building and stacking. – These are inexpensive and very safe for beginning blocks.

Building bridges and tunnels is another fun activity for children. Provide your child with small cars and some blocks. Show your child how to stack their blocks to make a bridge or a tunnel. Encourage them to drive their cars over the bridge or under the bridge. Toilet paper tubes and paper towel tubes also make great tunnels. Be sure to help your child expand their use of words by talking about over, under, fast, slow, tall, short, etc. You can also talk about the colors of the cars.

Build with ice! You can even play with blocks outside by making ice blocks in empty plastic tubs from margarine, cottage cheese, yogurt, etc.

Imaginary Picnic

Encourage your children to use their imagination by having an imaginary picnic with their friends, family or even favorite stuffed animals or dolls. Help your child set the table or spread out a blanket and set it with plates, silverware, and cups for a picnic.





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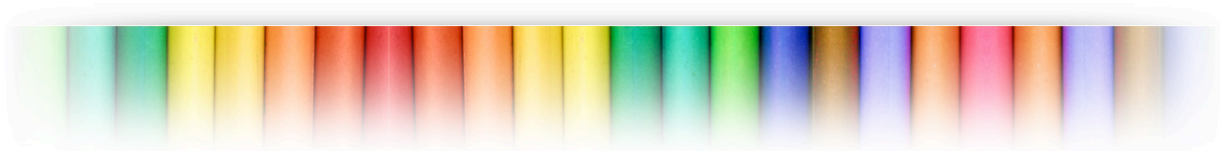
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Singing and Playing

Take time to sing and play with your child. Children love to sing and learn new songs. Singing helps children learn new words also. Be prepared! Young children like to do things over and over. While parents may get bored with an activity after repeating it a few times, children enjoy the repetition.



Children learn by
playing!





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