



Activity Kit

Building & Architecture Kit

Materials

Blocks & Blueprints Learning Center

- 10 2-sided Blueprint Cards
- 50 Wooden blocks of various shapes

I Can Build It! Architecture Set

- 10 2-sided Challenge cards
- 41 Various plastic building pieces

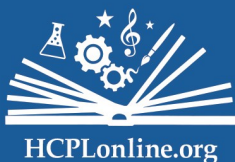


Books

- *Dreaming Up: A celebration of building* by Christy Hale
- *Look at That Building!: A first book of structures* by Scot Ritchie

Binder

Recommended for Grades K and up



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What to know about this kit...

Research suggests that children can learn a lot from playing with blocks. Block play can help children develop:

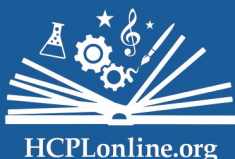
- motor skills and hand-eye coordination
- spatial reasoning
- cognitive flexibility
- language skills
- a capacity for creative, divergent thinking
- social competence
- mathematical thinking
- engineering skills and more.

Block play provides a natural context for exploring the physical world. Like little scientists, children experiment with structures and observe the outcomes of their building efforts. Through this process they learn about mass, weight, proportionality and balance, and can use their new concepts to plan and predict outcomes. Children learn to use spatial vocabulary—words like “above,” “below,” “next to,” “inside,” “over,” and “through” while playing with blocks, and researchers have linked an understanding of spatial concepts to an interest in math and science later in school.

Playing with blocks also provides opportunities for children’s social and emotional development as they build and share with others, and manage the frustration that comes when structures collapse. The characteristics of grit and perseverance are displayed and developed for both children and adults participating in active block play. In addition, children are challenged cognitively as they solve the problems that arise in the construction process.

Children’s fascination with objects in their environment begins at an early age. As they play, they move, haul, stack, balance, and combine items they encounter in numerous and imaginative ways. As they discover their abilities to build, children also become fascinated with actual buildings, a natural outgrowth of their curiosity about anything huge and complex around them. The book *Dreaming Up* combines the different methods and materials children use to build when they play with examples of notable architecture from around the world. At the back of the book, you can learn more about the buildings and the architects who designed them.

Have fun playing with the materials in this kit and observing architectural design in the world around you!



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