

Resources on Block Play

Resources & Books for Teachers:

- Chalufour, Ingrid & Karen Worth. 2004. *Building Structures with Young Children*. St. Paul, MN: Redleaf Press & National Association for the Education of Young Children.
Looking at the science behind exploring, designing, and building structures, this book guides children to help deepen their understanding of the physical science present in building block structures – including concepts such as gravity, stability, and balance.
- Ellen Booth Church and Karen Miller. *Learning Through Play: Blocks*. Scholastic, Inc., ISBN 0-590-49111-3.
- Education Development Center, Inc. 1997. *Structures*. (A Module). Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall Hunt Publishing Co.
This teacher's guide is for the sixth-grade level, but it is useful for teachers on the science involved in building structures.
- Forman, George, and Karen Hewitt. 1990. *The Learning Materials Workshop Blocks: An Educational Guide*. Burlington, VT: Learning Materials Workshop.
A detailed look at the value of block play in early childhood, this book provides suggestions for using blocks in the classroom
- Foundations The Value of Unit Block Play*. Community Playthings at www.CommunityPlaythings.com
Receive a free CD-Rom from Community Playthings that provides an understanding of the value of block play in children's lives. Discusses the necessity of block play and unlocks the educational possibilities hidden within their block area.
- Hirsch, Elizabeth, ed. 1996. *The Block Book*. Washington, D.C.: National Association for the Education of Young Children. ISBN 0-935989-76.
An excellent resource about using blocks with young children – a must for every ECE teacher.
- MacDonald, Sharon. *Block Play – The Complete Guide to Learning and Playing with Blocks*. 2001. A Gryphon House Book. ISBN 0-87659-253-1.
For educators and parents: how gender influences block play, establishing home-school connections, choosing and implementing relevant assessments, strategies for incorporating IEP/IFSP goals for children with special needs and abilities, and findings regarding brain development and play. Theory into Practice activities help the user take those important first steps to implementing the strategies discussed.
- Newburger, Abigail and Elizabeth Vaughan. *Teaching Numeracy, Language, and Literacy with Blocks*. Redleaf Press, ISBN 1-929610-78-5.
- Welhousen, Karyn, and Judith Keiff. 2001. *A Constructivist Approach to Block Play in Early Childhood*. Albany, NY: Delmar Publishers.

This book provides a comprehensive look at how to use building materials with young children.

Books for Children:

Dupré, Judith. 1996. *Skyscrapers*. New York: Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, Inc.

Gibbons, Gail. 1996. *How a House Is Built*. New York: Holiday House.

Hayward, Linda. 2001. *Jobs People Do: A Day in the Life of a Builder*. DK Readers Series. New York: DK Publishing.

Hutchins, Pat. *Changes, Changes*. 1987. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, ISBN 0-689-71137-9.

Lowell, Susan. 1992. *The Three Little Javelinas*. Flagstaff, Ariz: Rising Moon.

Macaulay, David. 2000. *Building Big*. New York: Houghton Mifflin.

MacDonald, Fiona. 2001. *Homes*. Discovering World Cultures series. New York: Crabtree Publishing Company

Marshall, James. 1996. *The Three Little Pigs*. New York: Puffin.

McLerran, Alice. 1991. *Roxaboxen*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard.

Nelson, Peter. 1994. *Treehouses: The Art and Craft of Living Out on a Limb*. New York: Houghton Mifflin.

Steltzer, Ulli. 1999. *Building an Igloo*. New York: Henry Holt.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Block City*. ISBN 0-689-86964-9.

Wilkinson, Philip. 2000. *Buildings*. Eyewitness Book Series. New York: KD Publishing.

Websites:

“All About Unit Block Play” by Nancy P. Alexander. www.earlychildhoodnews.com.

“Building Big” is a companion to the David Macauley book and videos. The “Wonders of the World Databank” contains information and photographs of different structures all over the world. It also includes an extensive glossary and information about building-related careers. www.pbs.org/wgbb/buildingbig.