

# BLOCKS

the foundation of math and science

**MAKE YOUR OWN BLOCKS** Cover standard size boxes (milk cartons, Capri Sun, etc.) with sturdy wrapping paper or contact paper. Allow your child to guide the activity and discuss the sizes as you create the blocks.

**SPY A BLOCK** Place a variety of blocks in the middle of the floor. Encourage children's observation skills by describing blocks for them to find. Use characteristics that help children focus on shape, color, or size. Example: "I spy a triangle block. Where is it?"

**RAMP IT** Create a variety of ramps with blocks. Roll a small ball down the ramps. Which incline makes the ball roll slower? Faster?

## INVEST IN GOOD BLOCKS

Purchase a good set of unit blocks to keep forever. Have a designated shelf for blocks so your child can always know where they are and how to clean them up.

**CREATE YOUR HOME** Have your child look at the neighborhood and your home. Help them build a structure like your home or their favorite place to visit.

**CHAIN REACTION** With your children, set your blocks on end in line, one after the other, like dominos. Have your child predict what will happen when the first block is knocked down and test it. What happened? Why?

## SCOOP & SORT

Get some multi-colored blocks. Have your child separate

them by color and shape. Count the blocks to see how many are in each category.

**KNOCK 'EM DOWN** Have your child stack up blocks or boxes to create a tower. Children loving getting to knock them down and build them up again. Make it even more fun for them by applauding and cheering for them.



## ROADS, TRACKS, & TUNNELS

Provide blocks to create roads or train tracks for miniature cars or trains. Cut round boxes in half to create tunnels for them to travel through.

**MIRROR IMAGES** Provide a table-top three-way mirror. Children build with small blocks in front of the three-way mirror.

The children learn to use the reflections in their design.

**BLOCK MAZE** If you have a pet mouse, hamster, or guinea pig, children can build a block maze for their pet to play in. Make sure kids are way past the stage of throwing blocks.

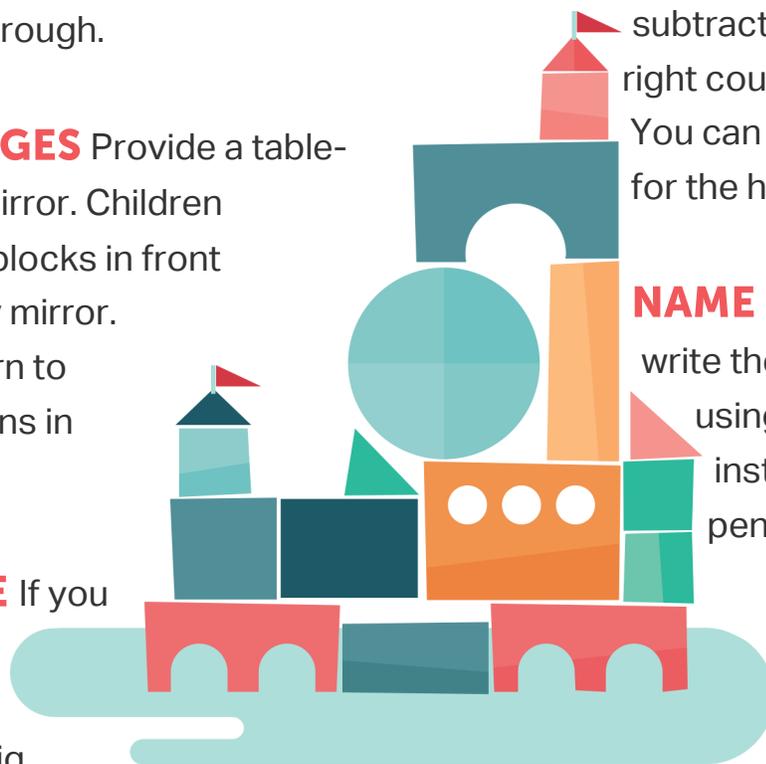
**STUFFED ANIMAL HOMES** Bring out some of your child's favorite stuffed animals. Have them build block homes to fit the animals. Create a stuffed animal community.

**HOW TALL AM I?** Hold up a doll or stuffed animal and ask "How many blocks tall is the doll (from her head to her

toes)?" Have your child check their guess by laying the doll down and lining up blocks next to it. How close are the children's guesses? Ask them to add or

subtract blocks to get to the right count for the doll's height. You can do this same activity for the height of the child.

**NAME IT** Ask children to write their initials or first name using alphabet blocks instead of paper and pencil.



**MAKING PATTERNS** Provide blocks of different

shapes or colors. Create a pattern for children to repeat, such as square, rectangle, square, rectangle or red, blue, red, blue. Ask children to create new patterns for you to repeat.

**FILL IN THE SHAPES** Lay out some block shapes on a piece of paper and trace the shape. Give your child the paper and have him figure out what shapes of blocks you put together to fill the shape in on the paper.