

Block play in early years

Develop a large outdoor construction area, which offers open ended play and real resources to support engaging children in high level play.

Learning aims

- Working together, problem solving, negotiating
- Physical development - spatial awareness and fine and gross motor development
- Classifying objects by common characteristics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy, communication and language - new vocabulary: introducing and repeat key words
- Mathematical development
- Investigating and exploring.



Resources

- Blocks of varying sizes and shapes and hollow blocks
- Wheel barrow
- Real bricks, mud, sand, water, sticks and stones of varying sizes
- Real life tools
- Large space to build
- Building plans
- Images of buildings and builders
- Books about buildings in different countries
- Large paper and mark making equipment to encourage children to plan their designs
- Hard hats, clipboards and construction worker outfits
- Guttering, buckets, brushes, watering cans, crates, cardboard boxes and tubes
- Laminate pictures of building blocks built in a certain way - ask can you build this? Can you build a tower using five blocks?

Activity Outline

- Find a large space where children are able to transport, move, explore, investigate and build without interruption
- Role model using tools and materials
- Invite in a local builder to support and extend learning opportunities
- Encourage sustained shared thinking and problem solving through open ended questioning

- Discuss buildings and communities across different countries
- Bring in any other resources as led by children
- Allow children to lead and extend upon their interests and enjoyment
- This can be an activity that can be started off slowly and then added to during the week following on from children's interests and flow
- Encourage children to think critically, e.g. what if..... (the wonder of what ifs!).

Resources

For further resources, visit the myNDNA resources page.