

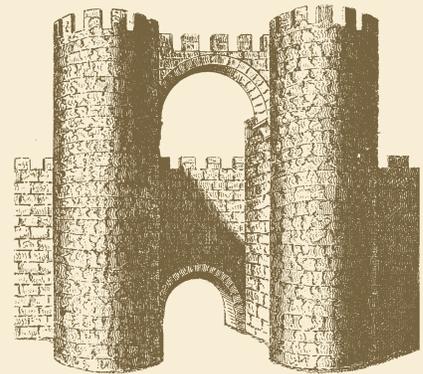
The WONDER CABINET WISDOM

Cognitive Development - The Blocks Area

Block play prepares children for mathematical thinking later in life by introducing concepts such as numbers, measurement, and comparison. It also develops their creativity and flexible thinking as they figure out how to put the same blocks together in new and different ways.

Ways to support your child's cognitive development:

- * **Ask about the size and shapes of blocks:** When children sort blocks by shape or place them back into their puzzle spaces, they practice making comparisons.
- * **Model how to stack blocks:** Balancing blocks and knocking them down gives children practice with cause and effect.
- * **Use directional words:** As your child builds, use words such as left, right, above and below to help them develop spatial vocabulary.
- * **Encourage your child to use the blocks in different ways:** Build up to make towers, construct imaginary homes, thrones or cars, and lay across in horizontal lines on the ground. Using materials in different ways inspires problem-solving and creativity.



Why is this important?

Building with blocks encourages children to figure out how things are similar and how they are different and then sort them into categories, an essential life skill that helps prepare children for future challenges. As they play, they will begin to imagine something in their mind and then create it for real, a major milestone in young children's thinking.

*Adapted from Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs by Dr. Ellen Galinsky
www.mindinthemaking.org*

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