

Block Area Arrangement

- Select an area of the room that is not in a high traffic area.
- Define a space large enough to accommodate five or more children at one time.
- Include adequate shelving so shelves can be labeled and organized by size and shape of the unit blocks.
- Label shelves with block shapes, so children can easily see the label.
- Provide block props that change throughout the year.
- Add real and found materials to the block area.
- Add props and accessories related to your current topic or interest.

Role of the Teacher

- Closely supervise area during play.
- Modeling is key.
- Maintain a positive attitude about the learning that can take place in the block area.
- Model how to create simple structures for children to prompt building.
- Ask open-ended questions like, “tell me about it”.
- Point out new materials and props.
- Provide suggestions related to the current topic or interest.
- Assist in taking down structures and replacing blocks on the shelves.

Clean-Up Time

- Allow enough time to prevent rushing.
- Station one adult in the block area during clean-up time.
- Encourage all children to help clean-up the block area.
- Define roles – delivery person, stacker, etc.
- Provide assistance and model.
- Play games to make it fun.
- Assign the job of “checking and reorganizing” to a child who is really good at sorting and stacking.

Preserving Block Play

- Allow structure to remain for a short, specified length of time.
- Place a large enough box over the structure to protect.
- Make a sketch.
- Take a picture.
- Build on moveable surface.

Rules for Building with Blocks

It is important that teachers establish rules early in the year for the block area. These rules should be taken seriously by the children to help prevent injury. Rules should be stated in a positive fashion and tell children what they CAN do.

- Blocks are for building only.
- Feet remain on the floor.
- Only take apart what YOU have built.
- Build only as high as (your head, your chest, etc.).
- Remove blocks carefully and replace them on the shelf.
- Build in the center of the block area; leave space for traffic and next to the empty shelf for cleaning up.