

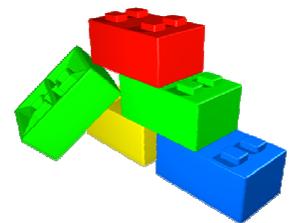


Purposeful Ongoing Play

Enhancing Language Skills Through Play

Parent Tip Sheet (P.O.P. Sheet) on... Building Blocks & Legos

- * Below are some ideas that may be used, but don't feel you have to use them all every time you pick up blocks. Just pick 2 or 3 that you feel comfortable with and can easily do.
- * If possible, have a collection of blocks of varying composition (wooden, foam, plastic), sizes, shapes (square, round, rectangular, triangular), and colors.
- * As you build together, talk about what you are constructing (e.g. tower, bridge, fence, house, etc).
- * As you and your child stack the blocks, count them and then state the final number with enthusiasm, for example, "We stacked 8 blocks!"
- * As you and your child manipulate the different blocks, spontaneously name the shape or the color of those particular ones during play.
- * If there are same-shape blocks of differing sizes, emphasize the differences by commenting, for example, "Here is the small square block and here is the big square block!" or "Let's stack the small ones!"
- * Sort the different blocks by shape, size, or color, emphasizing those differences verbally.
- * Demonstrate and practice position words while you play, such as on top, above, below, under, next to, beside, in front, behind, to the right, to the left.
- * Give one- or two-part directions such as, "Put the red block on top of the green block." or "Pick up all of the blocks and put them in the box."
- * If you have ABC wooden blocks, foster your child's awareness of the letters by pointing them out and naming them. Place a lot of emphasis on the first letter of their first name and review often.
- * Enjoy building!



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