



Preschool Learning Story

Building Blocks Preschool

January 27, 2020



There are many ways to increase social skills by playing with blocks. Playing with blocks can increase the ability to take turns, make choices and develop problem solving. Block play can also lead to increased sharing, expression of feelings and working well with others. As you use blocks to play with your children, it is essential to be aware of some important and fun questions you can ask to support their



learning and increasing of social skills.

Question for learning about sharing with blocks: Let's build together. How many blocks can we stack before they fall down?

Questions for learning about feelings with blocks: How does it feel to be building with blocks together? How did it make you feel when your tower was knocked over?

Questions for learning about taking turns with blocks: How about you put your block here and I put my block on top of it and when I'm done you can put another block on top (keep rotating until the tower falls down)?



Today's Bird Town building began with Isla, Rory and Elliot. Isla shared her ideas and gave directions on where to put the walls for a large Bird Store. She said, "It will have a door birds can go into toys in the store." It wasn't long before other children began building next to Isla.





When Lucie joined in, she began building a larger bird home. She explained, "So lots of birds can live in it together." Her building later turned into a Bird School. Pointing at the larger Robin inside one of the large hollow blocks, she said, "Here is teacher and the small birds are the kids."



Ben, Danny and Cooper explained they were making a large bird home. Ben said, "Actually It's a mountain home. The birds can all fit inside." Danny added excitedly, "Yes!! And it has piles of money and candy hidden inside!"



Sometime later Danny added in a block with a photo of a clock. He showed Ben and said, "So the birds will know what time it is."



As the morning went along, the building was evolving and becoming more complex. Some of the children connected the structures with long paths that the birds would walk on. There were some moments of overlap where the birds from one place would visit another ones building. All these experiences fostered important social skills that are only learned by playing with others.

Serefina added on to her bird home, which included a bird bath.





How does block play connect to STEM?

Block play provides a natural context for exploring the physical world. Like little scientists, children experiment with

structures and observe the outcomes of their building efforts. Through this process they learn about mass, weight, proportionality and balance, and can use their new concepts to plan and predict outcomes.



Building with blocks allows children to learn about things like shape, size, location, distance and direction.

Young children learn spatial awareness through movement, exploration, building and play.

Block play is especially good for spatial learning because it provides opportunities for kids to move and arrange objects and see what happens. Each tower that rises and falls is an experiment in how things in the physical world relate to each other.



Block play helps children learn to express quantities and measurements, sort and match objects based on similarities and differences, and understand basic math concepts (numbers, shapes, counting, addition, subtraction, etc.).

