

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES IN AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

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CONSTRUCTIVE PLAY

- **PLAYING IS VITAL FOR EARLY LEARNING .**
- **CONSTRUCTIVE PLAY IS DEFINED AS ANY ACTIVITY IN WHICH CHILDREN BUILD AND MAKE THINGS.**
- **CONSTRUCTIVE PLAY IS ALSO DEFINED AS CONSTRUCTING LARGER OBJECTS OUT OF SMALLER OBJECTS.**
- **AS PARENTS AND TEACHERS, WE NEED TO DESIGN ENVIRONMENTS THAT ENCOURAGE AND ENHANCE PROBLEM SOLVING FROM A YOUNG AGE.**

BENEFITS OF CONSTRUCTIVE PLAY

- **PROVIDES OPEN ENDED PLAY**
- **ALLOWS FREE EXPRESSION**
- **INCREASES FINE AND LARGE MOTOR SKILLS**
- **DEVELOPS HAND-EYE COORDINATION**
- **PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES OF COOPERATIVE AND GROUP PLAY (TEAMWORK AND SOCIAL SKILLS)**
- **CREATES FEELINGS OF SELF-CONFIDENCE AND COMPETENCE**
- **ALLOWS NEGOTIATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

BENEFITS FROM CONSTRUCTIVE PLAY

- **PROVIDES MANY SCENARIOS FOR
PROBLEM SOLVING**
- **CREATES OPPORTUNITY FOR DRAMATIC
PLAY**
- **CREATES VISUAL AND SPATIAL
UNDERSTANDING**
- **INCREASES LANGUAGE AND VOCABULARY**
- **FOSTERS EARLY LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT**
- **IMPROVES SCIENCE AND MATH SKILLS**

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION RELATING TO STEM

- **STEM: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH**
- **BLOCK AND BRICK PLAY ARE NATURAL ACTIVITIES FOR INCREASING CHILDREN'S MATHEMATICAL AND SCIENCE SKILLS.**
- **CHILDREN WHO ENGAGE IN THESE ACTIVITIES OFTEN HAVE STRONGER MATHEMATICAL ABILITIES BECAUSE THEY LEARN ABOUT SHAPES, SIZES, COLORS, FRACTIONS, AND CLASSIFICATIONS.**

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION RELATING TO STEM

- **CHILDREN ARE EXPOSED TO VISUALLY MEASURING LENGTHS, WIDTHS, AND HEIGHTS, ARE COMPARING SURFACE VOLUMES, AND VISUALLY SEEING HOW PIECES CAN FIT TOGETHER.**
- **BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION ALSO ENHANCES SPATIAL SKILLS, WHICH PLAY A ROLE IN DEVELOPING KNOWLEDGE ON ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY.**

INCORPORATING BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INTO YOUR PROGRAM

- **FREE PLAY OPPORTUNITIES WITH
DIFFERENT MATERIALS**
 - **SOFT AND HARD BLOCKS**
 - **LEGOS, K'NEX, TRAIN TRACKS, MARBLE
RACE, ETC.**
 - **PAPER, TAPE, GLUE**
 - **PLAY DOUGH, CLAY, MOLDING
MATERIALS**

INCORPORATING BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INTO YOUR PROGRAM

- **INCORPORATING BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES IN THE DAILY ACTIVITIES OR MONTHLY CALENDARS.**
- **CLUB OPPORTUNITIES THAT FOCUS ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION.**
- **PROVIDING FUN AND CHALLENGING TASKS FOR STUDENTS THROUGH TEAM COMPETITIONS.**

INEXPENSIVE MATERIALS

- **CONSTRUCTION PAPER & RECYCLED PAPERS**
- **PLATES, CUPS, RECYCLED BOTTLES & FOOD BOXES**
- **STRAWS, TOOTHPICKS, SKEWERS, POPSICLE STICKS**
- **TAPE & GLUE MATERIALS**
- **MARSHMALLOWS, GUMDROPS, SOFT FOOD ITEMS**
- **HOMEMADE PLAY DOUGH**
- **SOFT BLOCKS & BLOCK TOYS**
- **BE CREATIVE! ANYTHING CAN BE USED TO BUILD AND CONSTRUCT!**

RESOURCES

- **NESPECA, S.M., (2012, SEPTEMBER 10). THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY, PARTICULARLY CONSTRUCTIVE PLAY IN PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMMING. ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY SERVICE TO CHILDREN.**
- **[HTTP://WWW.ALA.ORG/ALSC/SITES/ALA.ORG.ALSC/FILE S/CONTENT/FINAL%20BOARD%20APPROVED%20WHITE%20PAPER%20ON%20PLAY.PDF](http://www.ala.org/alsc/sites/ala.org/alsc/file/content/final%20board%20approved%20white%20paper%20on%20play.pdf)**