

CONSTRUCTION BLOCK PLAY

Playing with large construction blocks supports **cognitive** and **physical** development. Through activities like building and stacking, children develop fine motor skills, spatial reasoning, problem-solving abilities, and creativity. It also strengthens their muscles and coordination as they lift, stack and balance the blocks. You can extend block play by adding figurines, small vehicles, fabric, and found materials like shells, leaves and gumnuts, encouraging children to create imaginative scenes.

ACTIVITY BENEFITS

- Builds problem-solving and planning skills
- Encourages spatial awareness
- Strengthens large muscle coordination
- Promotes teamwork and communication when with play partners



SCAN FOR PLAY
ACTIVITY IDEAS!

Visit playgroupwa.com.au
for more information

MORE PLAY IDEAS

TO SUPPORT COGNITIVE SKILLS:

- Sorting and stacking items
- Shape sorting toys
- Building with smaller bricks

TO SUPPORT PHYSICAL SKILLS:

- Seated ball games (rolling/catching)
- Animal walks (bear crawl, crab walk)

Playgroup  WA



JOHNSON'S STAGES OF BLOCK PLAY



(STAGE 1)

Carrying & Exploring

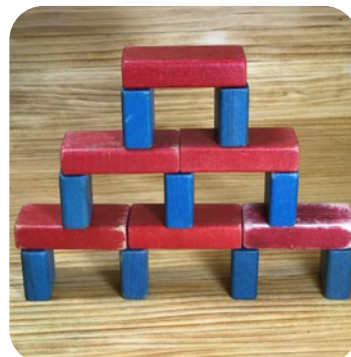
Children haul, dump, manipulate, and generally explore blocks while not using them for construction.



(STAGE 2)

Forming Rows & Stacks

Children create vertical stacks or horizontal rows of blocks.



(STAGE 3)

Bridging Space

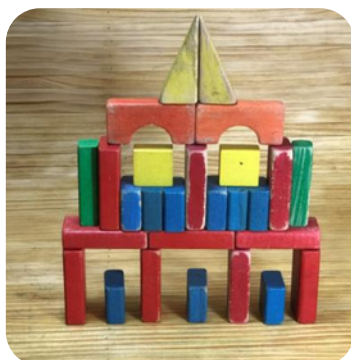
Children space a pair of blocks and span them with a third block to create a bridge.



(STAGE 4)

Creating Enclosures

Children purposefully arrange blocks to enclose space.



(STAGE 5)

Balanced, Decorative Patterns

Children create balanced and usually very symmetrical structures.



(STAGE 6)

Naming Structures

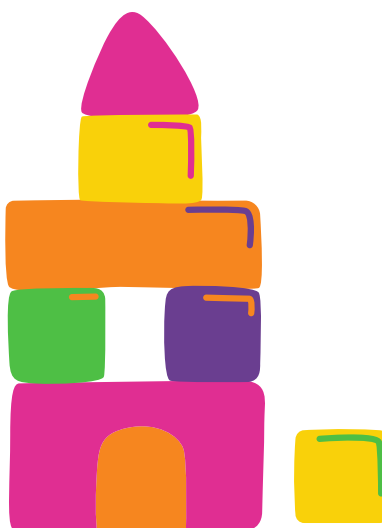
Children incorporate previous techniques and begin naming structures during or after construction.



(STAGE 7)

Building Representations

Children name structures before building and use structures for dramatic play.



Based on the work of researcher, author, and preschool pioneer Harriet Merrill Johnson in her book *The Art Of Block Building*

Created By Explorations Early Learning For Playvolution HQ
—V2.0 | Revised March 2023