



Blocks

Blocks give a great opportunity to work on **attention and listening**. Give instructions on how to build a tower for your child to follow, e.g. *“my turn, your turn”* or more complex *“first put on the red block and then the green”* or *“put the blue block on before the red one.”* Tell them not to start until you say *“ready, steady, go!”*

Then make it more fun by letting them knock it down structure, after *“ready, steady, go”* of course.

Children love building with blocks, but you can help them build their language skills while they play. Check out these top tips for introducing language into block playtime.

Use blocks to work on **problem solving** with tasks like:

- How tall can you build your Tower?
- How can you make a tower that won't fall down?

Use blocks to work on **categorising** by sorting blocks into groups according to:

- colour
- size
- shape

When building and/or giving directions use positional words (**prepositions**) such as; on, under, behind, between, next to, in front of, etc.

You can use them as encouragement e.g. *“That's lovely, I like how you put the red block on the blue one. I think I'd like to put the green block next to the blue one.”*

This fun game can not only improve your child's ability to **follow instructions** but it's also a lot of fun and can provide a few laughs.

Take a photo of a structure you have made. Can the child copy and make one the same? On completion get child to retell how they did it.

Separate blocks into two sets the same. Sit back to back with child. One person is the “speaker” they build a structure and describe how they do it step by step verbally. e.g. *“Put a long yellow block on top of a red square”*, etc. The other person is the “listener” they follow the instructions and make a similar structure. At the end can look at each other's creation and see if they are the same? Now swap roles.

You can build on your child's understanding of **concepts** by demonstrating them with the bricks:

- top/bottom
- up/down
- same/different
- long/short
- more than/less than

Blocks also provide lots of opportunities to introduce and reinforce **vocabulary** such as;

- colours - red, blue, green, yellow, etc.
- size - big, little, small, etc.
- shape - circle, round, square, triangle, etc.
- quantity - lots, few, all, none, etc
- dimensions - length/width/height, long, thin, tall, etc.