



BRICKLAYING BLOCK PLAY

Materials you need:

- Large plastic or wooden blocks
- Sand
- Water
- A flat surface to build upon
- Trowels, scoops, shovels
- Bowls, tubs or trays for mixing sand and water

Setup for play:

- Work with the children to add some sand and water and mix to a thick paste—make sure it isn't too thin or the children will get easily frustrated when the blocks slip off.
- Add the tools to the play along with the blocks and ask the children how they might make a brick wall.
- Show them how to use the slurry to join the bricks together to make their wall. Make sure to take photos as they work. You might like to provide some builders props and dress ups to explore the theme even further!

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children build their block wall they are learning to:

- Use their sense of touch, sight and smell to make choices and create
- Use descriptive language and become independent communicators
- Work together in a group with others
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Manipulate equipment and real life tools with increasing competence
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Use their senses to explore and choose natural materials
- Use their play to imagine and explore ideas
- Persist even when they find the task difficult
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Problem solve and make decisions
- Use their imagination to explore real life events

Extending the play:

- Ask the children to think about what else they could stick together with a slurry. What could they make using the materials around them?
- Talk about the tools builders use and look at pictures in books or on the internet of builders at work.
- Look through magazines and ask the children to cut out things they think builders might have helped to make.
- Use real bricks to build a wall with.