FINE MOTOR / MANIPULATIVE PLAY - ACTIVITY GUIDE 141



Materials you need:

- Roll of contact adhesive paper
- Collection of different Duplo and Lego pieces
- Accessible wall or fence space
- Masking tape

Setup for play:

- Cut out rectangles of the contact paper, peel off the backing and tape to the wall vertically with the sticky side facing out. Repeat a few times if you have a large group of children. You could also stick the paper to paint easels if you don't want to put tape on an indoor wall.
- Add a few baskets or tubs of Lego pieces and encourage children to make patterns and pictures on the sticky wall using the Lego blocks.
- Take photos of the creations before they pull the blocks back off the sticky paper to help pack away.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children create with the Lego pieces on a vertical surface they are learning to:

- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Express themselves creatively
- Manipulate equipment with increasing competence
- Problem solve and make decisions

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- Create with different mediums and textures
- Make decisions about the materials they want to use and what works best.
- Work independently on a project
- Use their upper body dexterity as well as balance and coordination skills
- Cross their midline and move in different directions
- Coordinate, strengthen and balance their large muscles as they bend, stretch, turn.
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Manipulate small objects using pincer movements

Extending the play:

- Prop up a few of the Lego baseboards in a vertical position so they can also build on top of the blocks in this position.
- Use the sticky walls outside on a fence as the canvases to add flowers, leaves, bark, twigs and other interesting small materials the children find outside.

