LINC
LEADERSHIP FOR INCLUSION IN THE EARLY YEARS
CEANNAIREACHT DO CHUIMSIÚ SNA LUATHBHLIANTA

The LINC Programme is a higher education programme designed to promote the inclusion of all children in Early Childhood Settings across Ireland, for more information see www.lincprogramme.ie

BENEFITS OF BLOCK PLAY

- Children learn about length, height, volume and physical space.
- By creating shapes with blocks, children begin to see how we give shape to our lives.
- Children learn about the nature of wood, you can't bend it, it doesn't break, and blocks always retain their original shape.
- Blocks become tools that invite mathematical thinking. Patterns, geometric shapes, part-whole relationships, fractions, adding, dividing, subtracting, these are all experienced and practiced naturally in the process of building with blocks.
- Children learn to create and represent meanings.
- When children balance one block on top of another, they are registering principles of physics.

Stages of Block Building

All children progress through specific stages as they use blocks in play

Stage 1

Blocks are carried around but are not used for construction (very young children).

Stage 2

Building Begins. Children mostly make rows, either horizontal (on the floor) or vertical (stacked).

Stage 3

Bridging: children create a bridge (or entrance) by using two blocks to support a third. In architecture this is known as the post-and-lintel system.

Stage 4

Enclosures: children place blocks in such a way that they enclose a space. Bridging and enclosures are among the earliest technical problems children solve.

Stage 5

With age, children become more imaginative in their block building. They use more blocks and create more elaborate designs, incorporating patterns and balance into their constructions.

Stage 6

Naming of structures for dramatic play begins.

Stage 7

Children use blocks to represent things they know, like cities, cars, airplanes, and to stimulate dramatic play activities: zoo, farm, shopping centre, and other locations they are familiar with.

Poster inspired by the Froebel Block Play Research Group

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