

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN)
Parent and Provider Resource: Activities for Distance Learning

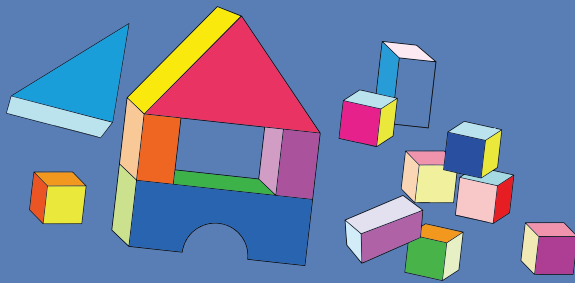
Blocks and Building

The following activity will support your child's learning while they are at home. Talk to your child and ask questions as you play. As your child listens to you, your child builds language and social skills, further reinforcing the concepts you are teaching. Match activities to your child's favorite books, songs, or toys to make them more meaningful learning experiences. Visit our website at www.chs-ca.org and click on the News and Events tab for more learning resources.

INFANTS - Activity: Exploring Blocks

What you need:

- Blocks, or for a homemade version:
- Small, empty cardboard boxes and tubes (bar soap boxes, pudding mix boxes, tissue boxes, paper towel roll tubes)
- Contact paper (any color or pattern) or clear packing tape



What to do:

- You can make your own set of blocks with some small empty cardboard boxes and tubes. Tape the boxes closed and cover them with contact paper or packing tape. Leave cardboard tube ends open, but cover them with contact paper or packing tape also. This will make it possible to wipe the blocks clean after use
- Place two or three blocks within reach of your baby
- Tap or move blocks to invite your baby to explore them
- Babies will use their senses to explore the blocks. They will touch, grasp, and taste blocks to learn about their size, shape, and texture
- Older infants explore blocks further by stacking them, lining them up, banging them together, picking them up and dropping them, and putting them in containers and dumping them out
- Encourage infants to build small structures by stacking three or four blocks, count blocks together, talk about colors or words on the blocks, and arrange them in patterns

What the activity does:

- Develops muscles and coordination
- Encourages infants to visually track objects
- Introduces the characteristics and uses of blocks, including science concepts such as size, shape, weight, and sound
- Builds the child's understanding of math concepts such as cause and effect, counting, and patterns