

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.

TODDLERS - Activity: Community Structure

What you need:

- Blocks of different sizes and shapes. These can be [homemade blocks](#)
- Optional: Digital or phone camera

What to do:

- Arrange the blocks in a space where you and your child can build. This activity also works well with a group of children
- Place a block in the center of the building area
- Invite your child to add one block to yours
- You or another child can add the next block
- Continue taking turns adding blocks until all the blocks have been used
- Ask your child, "What did we make?"
- If you have a digital or phone camera, take a picture of the structure
- Count the blocks and talk about the shapes, sizes, colors, and positions of the blocks ("The long rectangle block is under the square blocks")
- After you talk about what you made, allow your toddler to knock the structure down
- Build another structure together and take a picture of it
- The next day, show your toddler the pictures of the structures you made together. Invite your child to choose their favorite picture and try to rebuild it with the blocks
- If older children are participating in this activity, invite them to draw a picture of the block structure to build their understanding of space and practice observation skills

What the activity does:

- Develops muscles and coordination
- Introduces science concepts such as size, shape, weight, balance, observation, and engineering
- Builds an understanding of math concepts such as cause and effect, counting, and patterns
- Encourages turn-taking and social skills that build a sense of community

