

# CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

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

### Growing and Learning through Play

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](http://www.chs-ca.org) and click on the *News and Events* tab for more learning resources.

## TODDLERS - Activity: Family Story Blocks

### What you need:

- Photos of family, friends, and/or pets
- Colored paper or scraps of gift-wrapping paper
- Clear packing tape
- Glue stick
- Scissors (adult use)
- Empty tissue boxes, or other similar small boxes

### What to do:

- Make a set of blocks for your child that are fun to build with and encourage conversations about your family. You can start with two or three blocks, and slowly add to the collection as you save boxes
- Prepare the boxes by using packing tape to cover any holes
- Cut out photos and glue them to three or four sides of each box. Cover the other sides with colored paper or scraps of gift-wrapping paper
- Use the clear packing tape to cover all six sides of each box to create a smooth surface and protect the photos
- Offer the blocks to your child and observe what they do. Talk with your child as they explore the blocks, naming the people or pets as your child notices them
- Ask questions such as: Where is the picture of Grandma? Can you find Uncle John? I see a red square, what do you see?
- As you and your child build with the blocks, share stories or facts about the people pictured. For example, "Here's a picture of Grandpa; he taught me how to grow tomatoes."
- You can also use the blocks to play other games. For example, "Here is a picture of Aunt Sarah, can you find another picture of Aunt Sarah in the room? Here is a blue square, can you find something else that is blue?"
- Store the blocks where your toddler can easily reach them. Continue to add to the block collection and use them for building or sharing stories about the family
- You can also use blocks to introduce positional vocabulary (words that describe the position of something). For example, "Can you put the block with Grandpa's picture on top of the green block? It is next to the red block"

### What the activity does:

- Builds the relationship between you and your child
- Practices math skills
- Introduces language; including positional words
- Builds motor development
- Sharing family stories helps your child feel connected to a group of loving people and develops a social support system for them



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