

Exploring

infants and toddlers

Capital District Child Care Council *a tipsheet for parents and caregivers of children ages 0 to 2*

Block Play with Infants

Block play involves the whole child....muscles, senses, intellect and emotion, individual growth and social interaction. Children use their imaginations and solve problems during block exploration. How a child plays with blocks is refined as the child's ability and imagination grow and develop.

- Place large, soft, brightly colored blocks in the corner of baby's crib. When baby is receptive, show her the blocks and softly tell her all about her blocks and what they can do.
- Pile soft blocks at the foot of baby's play chair near her feet. She will wiggle and knock the blocks over.
- Give the baby a soft photo block with family pictures.
- Encourage baby to mouth and explore age appropriate blocks. She is learning while she is gnawing on the flat sides and edges.
- After baby discovers the noise she can make by banging two blocks together, excitedly answer her back with your own block banging. This will soon become a game you can share.
- Place several blocks on baby's high chair tray.

She will develop a game of drop and pick up. Add a small plastic bowl to fill and dump.

- Let baby watch you cover a block with a pretty scarf.
- With baby on a blanket on the floor, place blocks just within her reach and encourage her to touch them.
- Make a short tower of soft blocks. Encourage baby to knock them down. Count the blocks as you restack them. Clap and celebrate her efforts when they fall.

The versatility of blocks makes them an important addition to the toy box of any age child.



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