

June 26th Friday's Circle Time Activities

1. [Click here to watch today's circle time video](#)
2. Choose an activity to do with your child (click on the links underlined)
 - [Click the link - ASL story time – The Three Little Pigs](#)
 - Art time: Make the *3 little pigs build a house craft* – see attached for directions.
 - Print out the attached documents- *3 Little Pigs Timeline & 3 Pigs Figures* to support your child to role play and sequence the story for which part of the story happens first, next and last.
 - Print out the attached document for fine motor scissor practice– *Three Little Pig Cutting practice*
 - See attached document – “*Can you build this*” for simple wood structures your child can copy and build
 - See attached document – “*castles*”- for images of real life buildings that children may be inspired to create and imitate in block building.

10 BENEFITS TO PLAYING WITH BLOCKS

1. INSPIRE CREATIVITY AND IMAGINATION.

Blocks allow children to be builders and creators. They can design anything they like and be as adventurous as they want. Build a city or a zoo, a castle or cave and watch the dramatic play explode around it!

2. DEVELOP MATHEMATICAL CONCEPTS.

Building and experimenting with blocks help children to naturally learn about mathematical concepts and understandings such as higher, wider, taller, shorter, heavier, how many more, etc. Numbers, measurement, geometry and probability are all explored in a fun way without the children even realizing it!

3. MATCH ALL DEVELOPMENTAL LEVELS.

Blocks grow with the child and are always appropriate for changing developmental skills. From grasping them as a baby, stacking and knocking them over as a toddler, to beginning to explore structure making with a purpose and using them alongside dramatic play, children will always find a way to be able to use them.

4. CAN BE PLAYED WITH ALONE OR WITH OTHERS.

There is no exclusion for block play. Playing with them on your own, with a friend or in a small group all provide fun play experiences and opens block play up to new opportunities.

5. DEVELOP PHYSICAL SKILLS.

Learning to use blocks will help to develop both fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. It's tricky learning to balance blocks together to form a tower and in doing so the children experience the physical benefits in other parts of their lives too.

6. BUILD CONFIDENCE.

Just by looking at the face of a child who has managed to build a tower or structure you can see the pride and excitement oozing from them. These are excellent feelings to encourage!

7. STRENGTHEN PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS.

The tower won't stay up? They can't quite get the bridge to hold together? Building with blocks allows children to practice and develop their problem solving skills through trial and error. And the best thing about using blocks for this is that it is really obvious whether their solution has worked or not!

8. DEVELOP SOCIAL SKILLS.

Sharing and cooperating in small groups is a tough skill for children to learn and use successfully. Using blocks together naturally means they will be working on these things. What will they do if they both need the same block? What roles will each child have as they build their structure together? It is very interesting to sit back and watch them try to sort through these issues.

9. INCREASE LANGUAGE VOCABULARY.

Blocks allow the development of all sorts of language skills. With your help blocks will build vocabulary for descriptive language (colours, sizes, shapes), comparative language (bigger, smaller), social language (asking questions, using manners) and topic specific language as they learn about parts of a castle or jobs in a city through associated dramatic play.

10. ENCOURAGE GOAL SETTING.

Children love to set their own challenges while using blocks, 'I'm going to build a tower bigger than me' you might hear them exclaim! Working towards their goals and using their problem solving skills to get there can keep them actively engaged for long periods of time!