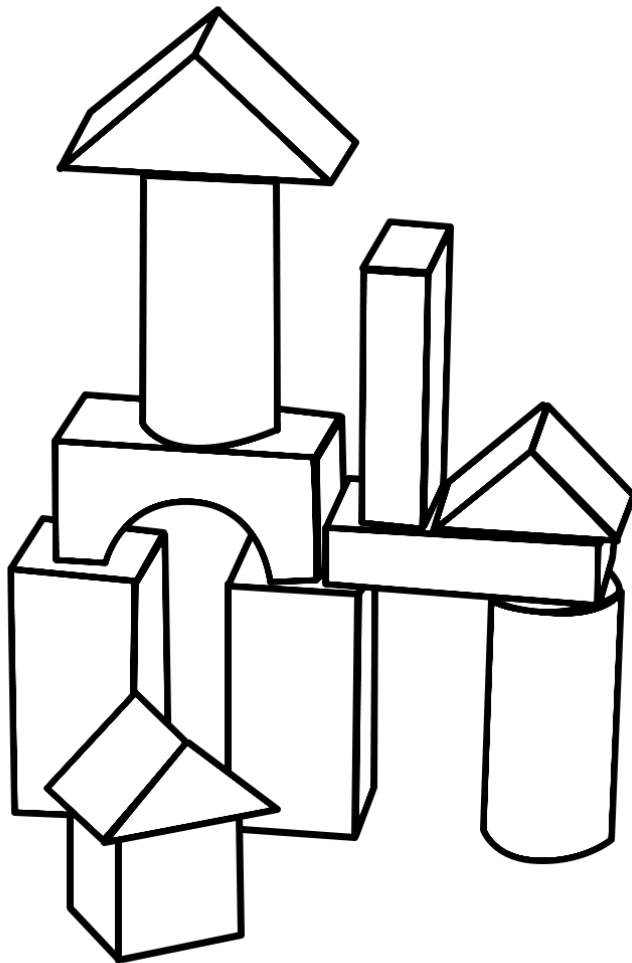


Building Language



Building Blocks

Language Activities

Following Directions

- Put on
- Give me
- Find the block
- Knock it down

Phrases

- Up block
- Down blocks
- Oh no blocks
(or uh-oh)
- More blocks

Vocabulary

- Blocks
- Open
- Close
- Up
- Down
- Help
- Build
- Make
- Fall
- Stack

Pronouns

- Your blocks
- My blocks
- Our blocks

Describing Words

- Big
- Small
- Tall
- Small
- Colors

Number concepts

- More
- Most
- None
- All
- Some

Building Blocks Parents' Guide

I want to.....

- Help my child follow directions
- Help my child practice pronouns
- Help my child learn new vocabulary
- Help my child practice number concepts
- Help my child combine words together
- Expose my toddler to a new language rich experience

Follow directions

When you work on following directions, make sure to only use words your toddler is familiar with. Check out page 1 for example directions.

Pronouns

I use blocks to work on my/your. You can each build a tower and then use directions such as put a block on my tower or let's knock down your tower.

New Vocabulary

Blocks are perfect for learning describing words, pronouns, and number concepts. You can model these new vocabulary words while you build together.

Building Blocks Parents' Guide

Number Concepts

Blocks are also great to work on following directions with more, none, all, and some. You can practice with directions such as "Give me more blocks, take all the blocks, or I want some blocks". If this is a new skill start with all and more and make sure you model the answers for your child first! You can also introduce these with phrases such as you have all the blocks, can I have some more?

Combine Words

If your little one is not consistently putting words together, focus on modeling 2 word phrases while you build. After you've modeled a few times, ask your child questions such as what happened to encourage them to use the phrase.

If your child is consistently saying single words while playing you can add words! The easiest method is to repeat the first word your child says, then add another. If your child says up while stacking blocks, you follow up with up blocks.

Building Blocks Parents' Guide

Language Rich Experience

Blocks are the perfect toy to build language because they are repetitive- especially when you play with toddlers. Typically you build, knock down, repeat. Because the activity is familiar, your child can instead focus on language instead of playing.

While you're building, you can model a word each time you put a block on. I typically use one of the following:

- Block
- Up
- Build

If you're making a tall tower you can easily model that word 10+ times in a few minutes. Then when the tower falls, I'll model OH-NO! It fell down! And be as expressive as you possibly can. Your child will probably laugh.

Then you repeat! You can always pause and look at the child before you stack the block to try and encourage talking.