



WHEN I BUILD WITH BLOCKS

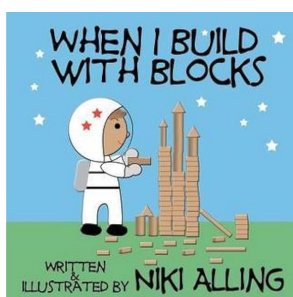
BOOKMARK FOR STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

DID YOU KNOW READING BOOKS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT STEM LEARNING?

Reading with older toddlers and preschoolers uses **PEER**:

- Use additional Prompts if needed,
- Evaluate and
- Expand your child's answers, and
- Repeat the prompts.

ABOUT THIS BOOK



When I Build With Blocks is a book written and illustrated by Niki Alling. With a little imagination, a young child **builds** different **structures** using blocks. What can you **build** with blocks?

WHERE CAN I FIND THIS BOOK?

Search [YouTube](#), [BookShare](#), [Archive.org](#), and your local library.

ADAPTATIONS

STEMIE's tips for making adaptations to the storybook reading process

<https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/resource/a-guide-to-book-adaptations/>

Scan the QR code to download or view online.



Expanding | Engineering

When I Build With Blocks

By Niki Alling

Complete a sentence



"I choose the block area almost every ___ (day)."

Recall



What are some of the things blocks were used for?" (castle, ship...)

Open-ended questions



"What can you build with blocks?"

WH questions



"What did the children do at the end of the day? (cleanup)"

Distancing questions



"What area is your favorite place?"

STEM Words & Ideas to Explore

- Build
- Idea





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ADAPTATIONS FOR STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this suggested literacy activity. These are only suggested activity adaptations. Consider consulting your child's care team first.



Follow your child's lead and interests. Enthusiastically ask your child questions about what they are doing and what they like.

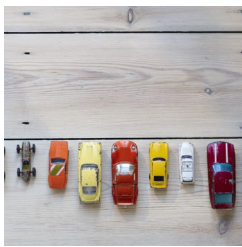


Answer your child's questions. If you do not know the answer, work together with your child to discover the answer.



Encourage your child to participate in the activity as much as possible. Praise your child's efforts and successes.

SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT, DEAF-BLINDNESS, OR MULTIPLE DISABILITIES:



Storybox:

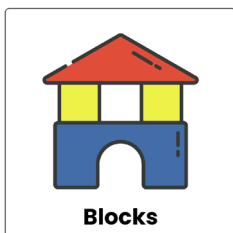
Select corresponding items and place them in a container or a box. Items may include:

- Various blocks
- Other building materials, like boxes
- Transportation toys

This adaptation can also be used to:

- Increase children's attention and engagement
- Support children with sensory challenges

SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF COMMUNICATION:



Pictures, Symbols, Signs, or Icons:

- Select pictures that correspond to items, objects, or animals in the book
- Add signs and icons to the story
- Use pictures along with a communication board to support STEM learning

This adaptation can also be used to:

- Increase children's attention and engagement
- Support children's learning
- Support children who are deaf or have a hearing impairment



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VISUAL CUES FOR STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

HOW TO USE VISUAL CUES:

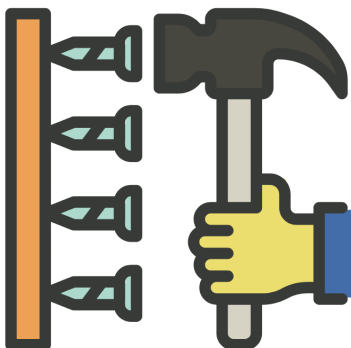
1. Print and cut out the images.
2. As you read, use tape or Velcro to attach the pictures to the corresponding pages in the book.

Check out STEMIE's tips for creating and using visual supports with

[A Guide to Visual Supports.](#)



Blocks



Build



Castle



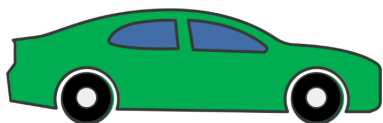
Rocket



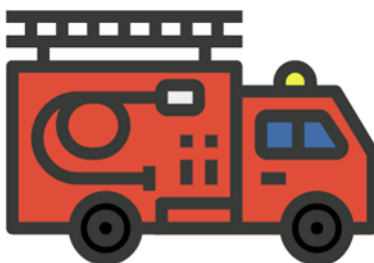
Ship



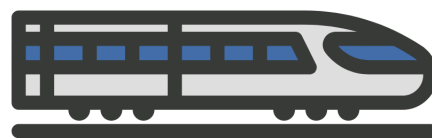
House



Toy car



Firetruck



Train

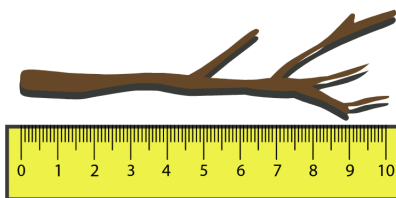


When I Build With Blocks

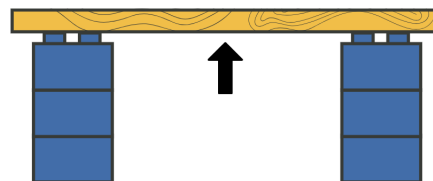
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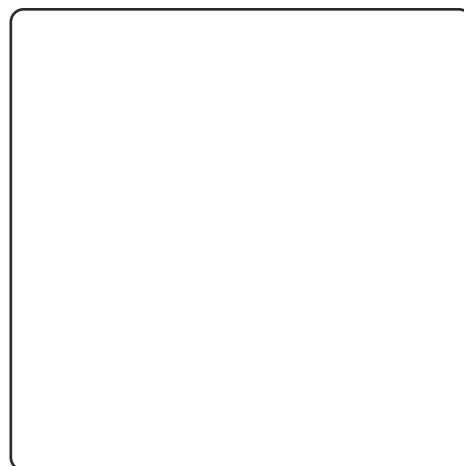
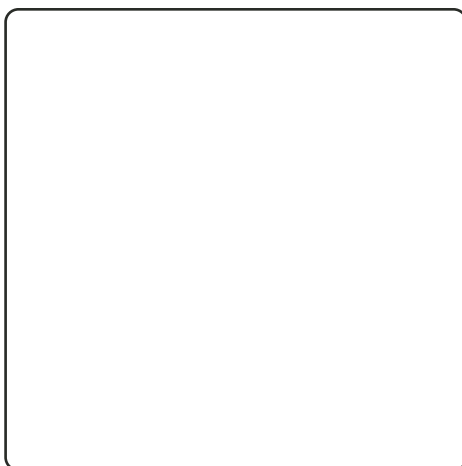
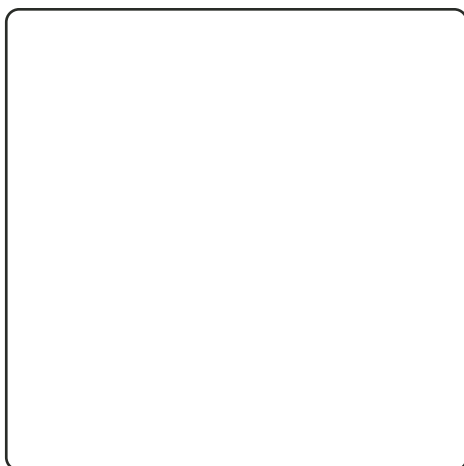
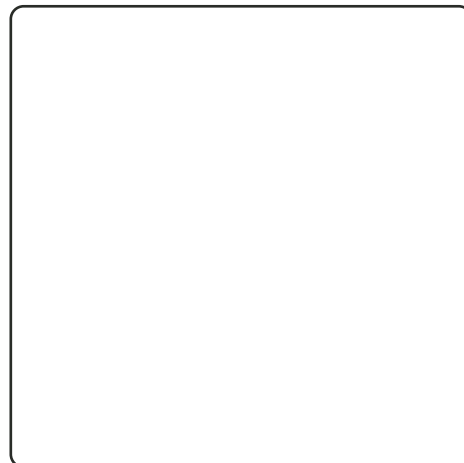
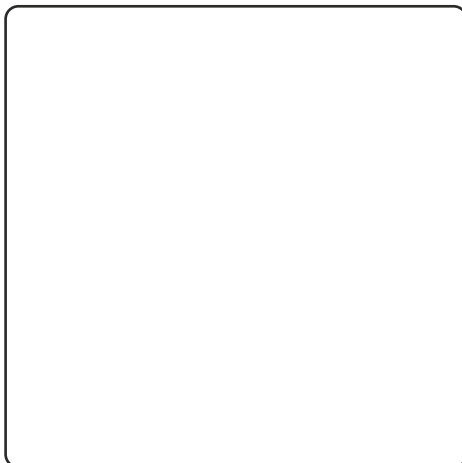
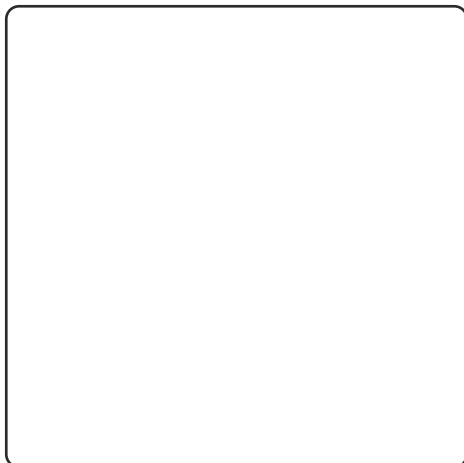
Bridge



Long



Strong



Need more visual cues?

Use the empty squares above to create your own or visit [STEMIE's Visual Cue Library](#).



WHEN I BUILD WITH BLOCKS

ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

BUILDING WITH BLOCKS

Description: Help your child **explore** blocks and use them to **build, test, and adjust** creations.

What My Child Is Learning!

Early engineering for young children is about exploring, playing, and figuring out how things work by trying ideas, testing them, and learning from what happens.

Provide a variety of blocks of different **sizes, textures, and weights/thickness** for the child to **explore building** towers, buildings, mazes, or bridges. Building with blocks is a wonderful way for children to practice elements of the **engineering design cycle (exploring, planning, testing, evaluating, and adjusting)**.

Compare **properties** of different types of blocks used to construct (**big/small, hard/soft, flat/bumpy**).

Ask,

- What would happen if you stack this block **on top** of that block?
- Which block tower is **taller? Shorter? Wider?**
- **How high** can we build with these blocks?
- What would happen if we stacked a **big** block on top of a **small** block?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS:

- Stack small blocks in **short** towers and go bowling! See if you can knock over the towers with a ball. Encourage your child to **predict** and **test** which block towers get knocked down.
- Play imitation games with blocks. Build a simple structure with a couple blocks and encourage your child to build the same one. Problem-solve and support your child to imitate your structure. These can get more complex as you go!
- Explore symbolic play and pretend blocks are something they are not. A long flat block could be a pretend phone and a circle block could be a pizza. What else can you make the blocks represent?
- Check out our [Discovery Play Activities](#) for Building Blocks.

