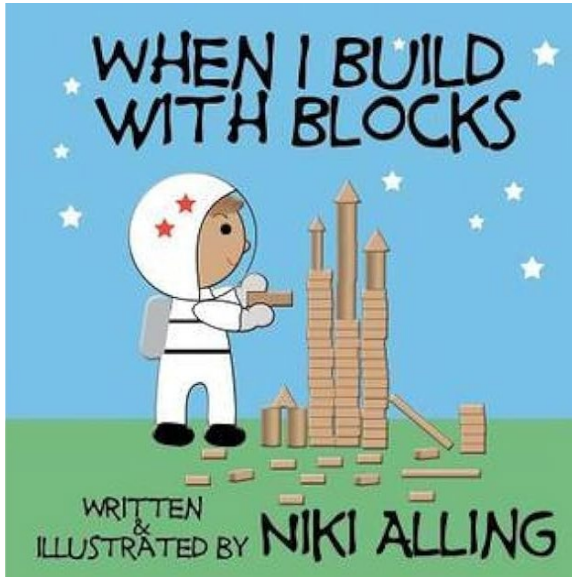




WHEN I BUILD WITH BLOCKS

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's exploration during this literacy activity. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.



Did you know reading books is a great opportunity to support STEM learning?

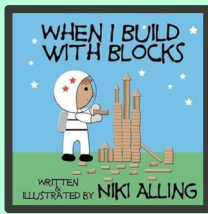
When I Build With Blocks is a book written and illustrated by Niki Alling.

When I Build With Blocks uses simple words and colorful pictures to talk about different things that can be **built using blocks** and a little imagination.

- If you do not have a paper copy of this book, watch a YouTube video of someone reading the book. If you prefer to read it to your child yourself, just mute the audio.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8DBW1ws70w>

- Check your local library to see if it allows you to borrow a digital version of this book to read on a laptop, tablet, or phone.



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BOOKMARK

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- Print this page and cut around the edges.
- Do not forget to **PEER!** Use **additional Prompts** if needed, **Evaluate** and **Expand** your child's answers, and **Repeat** the prompts.
- Look at STEMIE's tips for making adaptations to the storybook reading process and on the following pages:
<https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/guide-book-adaptations>
- If you print this page, you can download or view online by scanning the QR code below.



Expanding | STEM

When I Build With Blocks

By Niki Alling

C

Complete a sentence

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

R

Recall

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

O

Open-ended questions

"What can you build with blocks?"

W

WH questions

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

D

Distancing questions

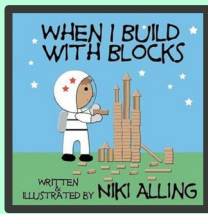
"What area is your favorite place?"

STEM Words & Ideas to Explore

- Build
- Blocks
- Transportation vehicles
- Bridge



stemie.fpg.unc.edu



WHEN I BUILD WITH BLOCKS

ADAPTATIONS

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SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT/DEAF-BLINDNESS/MULTIPLE DISABILITIES:

STORYBOX

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

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



This adaptation can also...

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



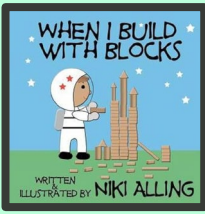
Follow your child's lead and interests. Enthusiastically ask your child questions about what they are doing and what they like.



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.



WHEN I BUILD WITH BLOCKS ADAPTATIONS

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SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF COMMUNICATION:

PICTURES, SYMBOLS, SIGNS, AND/OR ICONS

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



Image Credit: STEMIE

This adaptation can also...

- Increase children's attention and engagement
- Support children' learning
- Support children who are deaf/with hearing impairment



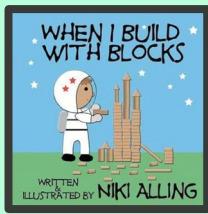
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VISUAL CUES:
USE TO PROMPT

HOW TO:

Step 1: Print and cut out the images. You can also create your own visual cues (empty squares included).

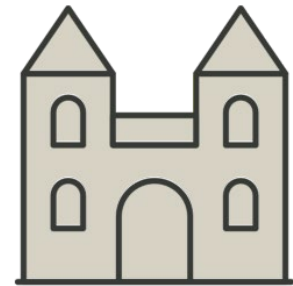
Step 2: As you read, use tape or Velcro to attach the pictures to the corresponding pages in the book.



Blocks



Build



Castle



Rocket



Ship



House



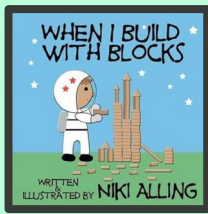
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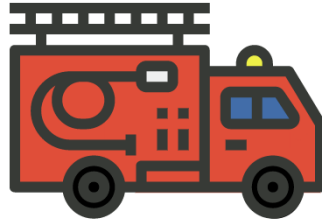
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Car



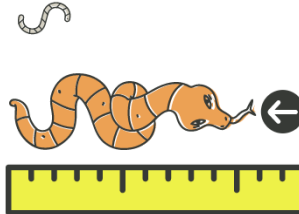
Fire truck



Train



Bridge



Long



Strong



Plane



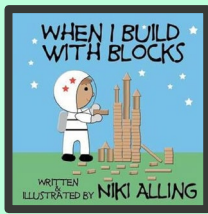
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EXPLORATION

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Blocks Builder

Description: Help your child explore blocks. Encourage your child to **test and improve** their block **builds/creations**.

What My Child Is Learning!

Engineering for children birth to five is about exploring materials and building knowledge about them so that they can be used to solve problems and/or create something with them.

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

Compare properties of different types of blocks used to construct (**big/little, hard/soft, smooth/rough**).

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?



WHEN I BUILD WITH BLOCKS



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS

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- 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 triangle block could be a slice of pizza. What else can you make the blocks represent?
- Use spatial and positional language! Use these tips for integrating spatial and positional language into everyday conversation. Ask, "What did you **create**?" "Can you fit [**inside, outside, on top of, under**] of it?" "What is it for?"
- Check out our Discovery Play Activities for:
 - Building Blocks
 - Tinker/Inventor's Box

