



Resources for Block Play Ideas and Inspiration

Children's Books about Buildings and Constructions of All Sorts

Anno, Mitsumasa. Anno's Counting Book. HarperCollins, 1990.

A classic introduction to number systems and symmetry as a town is born.

Barton, Byron. Building a House. Penguin Books, 1981.

In simple words and pictures, this book follows each step of building a house, focusing on the workers' specialties and house components such as wiring, pipes, etc.

Beaty, Andrea. Iggy Peck, Architect. Harry Abrams, 2007.

A rhyming book about a passionate – and very creative – young architect and builder.

Crosbie, Michael. Arches to Zigzags: An Architecture ABC. Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2000.

Uses rhymes and color photographs to introduce children to different architectural elements. Each rhyme ends with a question to spark children's thinking and encourage their exploration.

Dahl, Michael. One Big Building: A Counting Book About Construction. Picture Window Books, 2006.

Children find numerals hidden on each page as the stories of a high-rise increase one by one.

Dupre, Judith. Skyscrapers. Black Dog & Leventhal Publisher, Inc., 1996.

A book of brilliant skyscraper photographs.

Gibbons, Gail. How a House Is Built. Holiday House, 1996.

Illustrations of how a house is built, beginning to end, with descriptions about how architects, surveyors, heavy equipment operators, carpenters, plumbers, and landscapers work together. Also New Road by Gibbons.

Harris, Nicholas. A Year at a Construction Site. First Avenue Editions, 2009.

Watch the seasons change, a building progressing towards completion.

Hayward, Linda. Jobs People Do: A Day in the Life of a Builder. DK Readers Series. DK Publishing, 2001.

Clear photographs and simple text, with picture dictionary of relevant words.



Hoberman, Mary Ann. *A House Is a House for Me*. Puffin, 1982.

A rhythmic profusion of different homes.

Hutchins, Pat. *Changes, Changes*. Collier Books, 1971.

A little wooden couple endure changes when their building block house catches fire.

Kitchen, Bert. *And So They Build*. Candlewick, 1995.

Twelve different animal builders and the purposes behind their building designs.

Lewis, Kevin. *The Lot at the End of My Block*. Hyperion Books, 2001.

Rhyming tale about a boy as he watches a building go up in his neighborhood. Includes construction vehicles.

Lowell, Susan. *The Three Little Javelinas*. Rising Moon, 1998.

*A multicultural version of *The Three Little Pigs*, with houses made of tumbleweed, saguaro rib, and adobe, with Native American and Latino characters.*

Macaulay, David. *Building Big*. Houghton Mifflin, 2000.

Detailed illustrations of bridges, tunnels, dams and skyscrapers.

Other Macauley books that address building design, materials, and challenges:

Pyramid, Mill, Castle, Cathedral, City, Underground, and Unbuilding.

MacDonald, Fiona. *Homes*. (Discovering World Cultures Series). Crabtree Publishing Company, 2001.

Introduces houses from around the world, showing why they differ.

Marshall, James. *The Three Little Pigs*. Puffin, 1996.

A classic about the strengths and weaknesses of different building materials.

McLerran, Alice. *Roxaboxen*. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1991.

Children use creativity to create a town out of rocks, boxes, and desert glass.

Morris, Ann. *Houses and Homes* (Around the World Series). HarperCollins, 1995.

Full-color survey of interesting homes around the world.

Nelson, Peter. *Treehouses: The Art and Craft of Living Out on a Limb*. Houghton Mifflin, 1994.

The photographs of treehouses in this book will captivate both children and their parents.

Ready 2 Read! PlaySpace

Sobel, June. *B is for Bulldozer: A Construction ABC*. Sandpiper, 2006.

A construction story-based alphabet book, with many aspects of building included.

Stevenson, Robert Lewis. *Block City*. Simon & Schuster, 2005.

In this classic poem, a small boy constructs a city with blocks.

Wilkinson, Philip. 2000. *Building*. Eyewitness Book Series. DK Publishing.

Color photos of houses, towers, and their components – windows, doors, ceilings, etc. Provides information about how structures are designed and built. Other relevant titles in this series include Pyramid, Castle, and Force and Motion.



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Websites:

www.pbs.org/wgbh/buildingbig

Funded by the National Science Foundation, this site is a companion to the David Macauley books and videos. Contains photos of structures from all over the world, with information about their history, who built them, and the science and engineering underlying their design and construction.

www.emporis.com/en

This is the world's largest free-to-use website of built structures in thousands of cities all over the world.



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Resources for Parents, Caregivers and Early Learning Professionals:

Chalufour, Ingrid, and Karen Worth. *Building Structures with Young Children*. St. Paul, MN: Redleaf Press, 2004.
Viewed as a more detailed, extended Teaching Numeracy, Language, and Literacy with Blocks by Abigail Newburger and Elizabeth Vaughan.

Hirsch, Elisabeth S., ed. *The Block Book*, rev. ed. Washington, DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children, 1996.
Often called the best existing book about block play, this book describes in detail the stages of block play development and block play as a way to learn science, math, literacy, and "practice" art.

MacDonald, Sharon. *Block Play: The Complete Guide to Learning and Playing with Blocks*. Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House, Inc., 2001.
Clear description of what children learn through block play, with building activities and challenges for all stages of development.

Newburger, Abigail, and Elizabeth Vaughan. *Teaching Numeracy, Language, and Literacy with Blocks*. St. Paul, MN: Redleaf Press, 2006.
This book divides block-building development in young children into stages, then offers specific suggestions for parents and other adults who want to facilitate children's learning through block play.

Provenzo, E. and A. Brett. *The Complete Block Book*. New York: Syracuse University Press, 1984.
In addition to the uses and value of block play for children, this book offers a historical overview of the importance of building with blocks to children's development, covering 200 years.

Walker, Lester. *Block Building for Children: Making Buildings of the World with the Ultimate Construction Toy*. Woodstock, NY: Overlook Press, 1995.
Focusing on combinations of basic building components, then on detailed "blueprints" for 18 structures, this inspirational book about block-building is a classic.