

## BRILLIANT BLOCKS!



Blocks lend themselves to play that is versatile and can constantly change with children's interests and as they develop.

Building blocks can be used in a multitude of ways with children covering lots of areas of learning simultaneously. At the same time as they are investigating balancing, they can be developing their hand-eye coordination, problem solving and critical thinking skills.

## IDEAS TO EXTEND BLOCK PLAY:

**DIFFERENT LEVELS** - add pallets, tree stumps or cable reels to give children different levels to explore.

**MIRRORS** - adding mirrors gives children the opportunity to explore symmetry, shape, light and reflection.

**ADD MEASURING EQUIPMENT-** children may enjoy exploring with tape measures and rulers.

**MOVE BLOCKS OUTSIDE** and see what happens!

**ASK OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS** – I wonder, Tell me about, what else could you try?

**ADD LOOSE PARTS** - the opportunities are endless and can link directly to your children's interests.

**ADD BUCKETS AND/OR BAGS FOR CHILDREN TO EXPLORE** - this will appeal to your transporters!

**ADD MARK MAKING EQUIPMENT**- clipboards, chalk, pencils and paper can support children to represent and record their ideas.

**ADD PICTURES OF BUILDINGS -** to spark children's interest or prompt discussion.

There is much research that supports block building as an effective tool to improve outcomes children across all areas of learning (source EEF).



