

Making Blocks at Home

Toddlers love to play with blocks. They carry them around, they stack them, they build with them, and they create a fence for their animals or a garage for their cars. Here are some inexpensive ideas for involving your toddler and other family members in making blocks from grocery bags, shoe boxes and newspaper.

Grocery Bag Blocks

- Collect brown grocery bags, newspaper and tape for the project.
- Invite your toddler to help you make grocery bag blocks.
- Involve your child in scrunching newspaper and stuffing it into the bags.
- Fold down the tops of the bags to create a flat top. Tape the tops securely.
- Provide floor space where your child can build with the blocks.
- Add small cars and animals to the block play.
- Sit on the floor with your child and talk about what he or she is doing. Say, for example, "You've stacked 3 blocks on top of each other."
- Provide a large box for storing the blocks.

Small Paper Sack Blocks

- Repeat the process with small grocery sacks.
- Encourage your child to play with both the big and small blocks.
- Invite your child to put all of the big blocks together and all of the small blocks together.
- Count the blocks with your child. Your child may not know how to count the blocks, but you are introducing numbers to him or her.

Shoebox Blocks

- Collect shoeboxes with lids from family members and neighbors.
- Invite your toddler to help you make shoebox blocks.
- Involve your child in scrunching newspaper and stuffing it into the bags.
- Help your toddler securely tape the lid on the box.
- Cover the shoebox with self-adhesive paper.
- Add the shoebox blocks to the grocery bag and small paper sack blocks.