



Construction WOW Pack (EY12243)

In this case study, Hazel Marsh, from Brampton Primary School, discusses the impact that the Construction WOW pack has had on construction play in Early Years.



Background Information

Our EYFS Unit is based in a fairly large primary school in Derbyshire. We have a number of construction resources in school; however, we felt we needed to develop these resources further to provide more realistic building experiences that we could link to topics and help us to support development the Characteristics of Effective Learning as well as communication and writing skills.

Ways in which we used the Construction WOW Pack

Initially, we added the range of different building blocks to our existing construction area in the classroom. They were instantly popular - the children said they were 'real bricks and boulders' which made them more motivated to build with, instead of the brightly coloured plastic blocks we already had. Many of the children were inspired to get into character to complete their building and ensured they wore the high visibility jackets and builder's hats for the challenge!

During their play, the children had lots of discussions about how best to put the bricks together and explored using trial and error supporting their connecting schema. They built a range of different buildings and used small world animals and their mini me characters (laminated whole body photos stuck onto plastic blocks) to bring their buildings to life.

Writing is always an area for development within our EYFS Unit. We encouraged the children to design first and then build models using the blocks and write labels and captions for them. This was useful for our reluctant writers as it gave them a real purpose for writing.

The range of blocks within the pack also allowed us to make our small world play more motivating and realistic. For example, we used the ice blocks within our arctic animal's tuff spot and we used the boulders as part of our dinosaur small world. These realistic resources really allowed children to create

imaginative narratives about the characters they were playing with and further develop their communication skills. We are looking forward to using the blocks to support a range of other different themes within our curriculum including animal habitats, life on other planets and traditional stories.

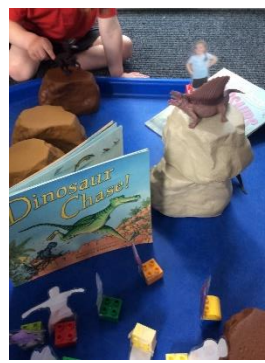
In addition to the indoor environment, we also took the construction play outside. The children loved completing building projects in the outdoor area and combined the new blocks with our existing outdoor construction like crates and tubes to make large scale collaborative projects.

Impact and outcomes

Within our EYFS Unit, we are always looking for ways to develop the Characteristics of Effective Learning. Engaging with the Construction WOW Pack gave children the opportunity to progress within all three strands: playing and exploring, active learning and creative and critical thinking.

The construction pack has also helped us to extend the range of building resources available to the children and make their play more realistic. There has definitely been an increase in the number of children accessing construction play within the setting.

Through this play, we have also been able to support children to further develop their communication skills and early writing development by giving their writing a purpose. We have seen progress in Literacy skills through these regular writing opportunities.



With thanks to Hazel Marsh from Brampton Primary School for writing and sharing this case study with us.