

Giant Wooden Stack and Build Construction Set Ideas

EY10442, EY10443, EY10916 (different size packs)

Also available Giant Wooden Tower Pyramids Circle

EY05326, Square EY06026, Triangle EY06027

Open-ended tactile creative construction to spark the imagination. Build, create, extend and create own creations. Children will enjoy designing, problem-solving and working together.

Encourages deep concentration, persistence, cooperation, imaginative play.

It gives them practical experience, application of mathematical concepts, and provides rich opportunities for language development.

It also helps to develop hand-eye coordination and use fine and gross motor skills.

The blocks can be purchased separately or in different configurations.

The children will enjoy playing with the blocks in a variety of ways. Children can engage in construction by balancing and building in different ways.

Additional pieces can be added onto the boards. For example, the Metallic Beads (EY10582) fit beautifully with the set. They can be placed on top of the posts and can be turned around.

You will find many ways to use the resource but here are a few of our ideas to get you started. We hope you enjoy them.



Ideas for ways to use

Encourage Building

The boards may be used to create mini cities, with towers and buildings. The children can create different landscapes.

Perhaps the children may make tracks or roads with the pieces. This could be on the board or alongside it. Some children may be fascinated with lining things up. Ensure there is access to vehicles and other accessories so that they can be incorporated into the play.

Create a STEAM Space

You may wish to use this collection as part of your STEAM approach (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths)

The children will use key skills, such as designing, testing, predicting, evaluating, discovering etc. Engineers have to evaluate how things work and how things fit together. They can be creative in their designs and layout. They may have to use mathematical skills as they decide which is the right piece to select. They will be experimenting and making vital connections! Children can explore the different shapes, either sorting them into their common shapes, or putting all the big ones together in one pile, the small ones in another and the rest in another pile - they can even make their own categories.

Loose parts play is very much at the heart of this approach. There are all different shapes and sizes to manipulate and experiment with. The children can select various pieces and place them where they wish. They are the architects of their own play. There is no set way of using this resource.

Develop Language

The resource provides rich opportunities for language development and modelling vocabulary. Ask questions such as 'I wonder if we can make this tower taller?', 'Which piece is longer?', 'What will happen if we place the smallest piece at the bottom?'

Scaffold children's mathematical learning by asking questions like, 'How many square pieces can you count?' Encourage critical thinking. Model learning to see how tall a tower can be made.

Encourage them to talk about what they are doing, to share ideas and ask questions.

Imaginative Play

There are plenty of opportunities to encourage talk in imaginative play.

Use with small world play to create homes for characters, ramps for vehicles, or rocks for lions to sit on. Position the shapes and stack them in various ways. Use with other small world objects and use talk when pretending that the objects are something else in play.

Support various Schema

Schemas are a natural part of how young children learn. They are patterns of repeated actions or behaviours that help children test ideas, make sense of the world and build a deeper understanding through play.

When we observed children playing with the resource, they played with them in a variety of ways. Some enjoyed stacking and lifting them off the stand (repeatedly). Others used them in their construction play and linked them to other resources. One child lined them up in a pattern. For some children they were used symbolically i.e. taking on another role such as a camera, or a phone.

Some will love to build up the towers, whilst others will try to connect the pieces across. If you have more than one board, they may try to use the longer sections of wood to cross-over onto the next section.

Some children will love to twist and turn the pieces. Perhaps they are displaying an interest in a rotation schema and may use the pieces to spin (either on a flat surface or around the central spindle) or use as gears.

Some children may simply enjoy taking the pieces off and then placing them back on again. The wood has a lovely finish to it and there are various shapes to be explored.

The children may choose to sort all the pieces. They may compare them, some of the pieces are shaped like rectangles, triangles etc. Can they find two the same? Are the rectangles the same length? Do the pieces all have the same number of holes?

By recognising schemas, we can offer resources that match children's interests and thinking, support curiosity, problem solving and confident explorations.

Children will love manipulating shapes and experimenting with ways in which these can be stacked, balanced, rotated.