



# Weighty Block Building

### OLDER TODDLERS

**Materials** empty milk and juice cartons  
scissors (adult only)  
small boxes  
sand  
spoons or small child-size plastic shovels  
packing tape  
colored contact paper

- What to do**
1. Rinse and dry several milk or juice cartons. Cut off the tops of the cartons.
  2. Have the children scoop sand into the openings of the cartons and small boxes using a spoon or shovel. (Make sure the cartons have different amounts of sand in them so they have different weights and make sure they are not too heavy. You can always add new ones with different weights.)
  3. Flatten any protrusions.
  4. Securely seal the openings with tape.
  5. Wrap colored contact paper around the cartons and boxes.
  6. Encourage the children to build! They will experience various weights as they build with the blocks.

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Monica Hay Cook, Tucson, AZ

# Lacing Shapes

### OLDER TODDLERS

**Materials** colored card stock  
scissors (adult only)  
stencils of animal shapes (optional)  
hole punch  
pieces of colored yarn  
large plastic yarn needles (purchase from early childhood catalogs or at school supply stores)  
tape

- What to do**
1. Cut the colored card stock into basic shapes (square, triangle, and so on), or use stencils to create animal shapes.

# FINE AND GROSS MOTOR



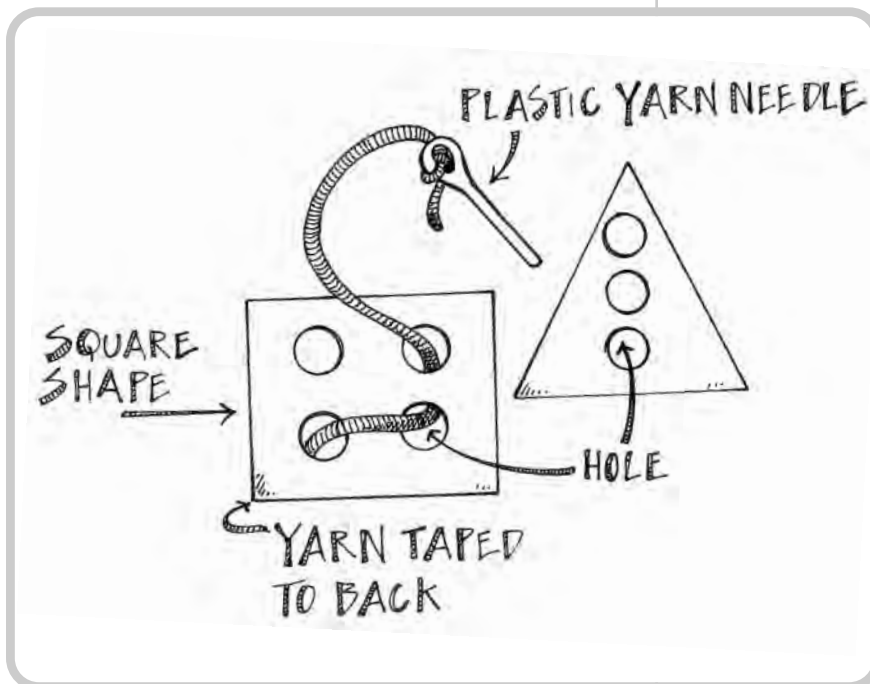
- Using a single-hole paper punch, randomly punch holes in the shapes, being careful not to punch the holes too close together or too close to the edge of the shape. Depending on the age of the child, you might want to punch only three or four holes in the shape.

**Note:** Prepare the shapes before the children arrive.

- Thread a piece of yarn onto a yarn needle. It is best to use a yarn color that contrasts with the color of the shape, so that the child can clearly see the stitches he makes.

- Tie a loop in the yarn with a small knot so that the needle cannot be pulled off of the yarn.

- Tape the opposite end of the yarn onto the back of the card stock shape.



- Show the children how to weave the needle and yarn in and out through the holes in the shape.

**Note:** This is a one-on-one activity, with one teacher working with one child. Children should never be left alone with a plastic needle.

**More to do** You can make a variety of different shapes to blend with your classroom curriculum. Some ideas include: jungle animals, sea animals, letter shapes, vehicle shapes, and so on.

**Dramatic Play:** Create “cheese wedges” from yellow card stock so the children can pretend they are mice weaving through the holes in the cheese. Read a mouse story while they work.

**Holidays:** Use holiday cookie cutters as stencils to create holiday shapes. Hang each child’s lacing shape on a classroom tree. Colorful heart-filled Valentine’s Day trees are especially nice!

Jennifer Gray, Columbia, MD