

Structures

Materials

Blocks
Camera
Film

What to do

1. Encourage the children to build block structures in the Block Center.
2. Take a picture of each child with her own structure.
3. Attach the pictures to a wall or bulletin board in the Block Center.
4. Encourage parents to look at the photographs on Back to School night.

Related book

Click! A Book about Cameras and Taking Pictures by Gail Gibbons

 Elizabeth Thomas, Hobart, IN

Block Center Hall of Fame

Materials

Blocks
Camera and film
Paper and pen
Glue or tape
Construction paper
Marker

What to do

1. When the children (alone or in groups) are in the Block Center making buildings, take a picture of them and ask them to describe their creations.
2. Write down who is in the picture and their exact descriptions.
3. When the pictures are developed, tape or glue the photo on a piece of construction paper. Write the child's name and her description of her creation underneath the picture.

4. Hang the pictures in the Block Center under the heading "Block Center Hall of Fame." This is a great way to encourage language development because the children can see how their spoken words are written. Children love to see their pictures hanging in the classroom, too.

More to do

At the end of the year, give the pictures to the children to bring home. Parents love to see pictures of their children, especially when they are creative and humorous.

 Gail Morris, Kemah, TX

Follow the Velcro Road

Materials

Construction paper
Markers or tempera paint and brushes
Laminate or clear contact paper
Glue or tape
Craft sticks
Clay
Sewable Velcro strips
Toy vehicle set
Small people set

What to do

1. With the children, make road signs using construction paper and markers or tempera paint.
2. Laminate the signs or cover them with clear contact paper for durability.
3. Glue or tape the signs to craft sticks.
4. Help the children roll clay into several balls with flattened bottoms. Then, place the bottoms of the craft sticks into the clay balls.
5. Allow the clay to dry, until hardened.
6. Separate the soft Velcro pieces from the rough pieces.
7. Using the rough-sided Velcro, place a strip onto the carpet to form a road. If desired, cut the Velcro to make shorter roads or curves in the road.
8. Place toy cars, people, and signs on the carpet for roadway fun!