



TOY GUIDE SHEET

Wood Blocks

REMEMBER TO:

1. Try to sit with your child between you and your Early Learning Specialist.
2. Place the toy on the floor or surface and invite your child to explore.
3. Follow your child's lead as much as you can.
4. Allow your child to do as much as he or she can do on his/her own. If your child becomes frustrated, help him or her.
5. Listen and respond to your child as he or she plays.

You and your child can play with blocks in many ways:

- Blocks can be sorted by shape, color and size.
- Blocks can be counted.
- Blocks can encourage children to use their imagination. A block can represent a car or multiple blocks can represent a tower.
- Blocks can be stacked up and knocked down.
- Some children become too excited when there are many blocks to play with and it makes them have difficulty concentrating on achieving a task, such as building a tower. Try offering fewer blocks, and see if this helps the child.

Name and encourage your child to name:

- **Labels:** box, blocks, tower
- **Colors:** red, blue, yellow, green
- **Shapes and sizes:** square, rectangle, triangle, circle, cube, cylinder, arch, prism, big, bigger, biggest, small, smaller, smallest, tall, short
- **Numbers:** one red block, two square blocks, many blocks
- **Textures:** hard blocks, smooth blocks
- **Cause and effect:** What do you think will happen if you keep adding blocks to your tower?
- **Spatial relationships:** The blocks can be placed on top of, under, next to each other.

Describe your actions and encourage your child to describe his or her actions:

- **General:** Let's build a (house, train, tower, bridge, etc.)
- **Matching:** Can you find another cylinder block like this one?
- **Fitting:** Let's fit two triangles together to make a square.
- **Sounds:** What sound did the blocks make when they fell?

Remind your child to think about what he or she is doing:

- **To pay attention to the activity:** Which tower is taller?
- **To make a choice:** What would you like to build? What color block would you like to use next?
- **To have self-control:** Let's build with the blocks, not throw them.
- **To remember other experiences:** Have you ever seen something shaped like a cylinder? What was it?
- **To pretend:** Let's build a train and pretend to go on a trip. Where should we go?
- **To do things in order:** What did you do first?

Remember throughout the home visit to:

ENCOURAGE your child to talk.

PRAISE your child.

ASK your child questions.

HELP your child when needed.

LISTEN to your child's answers.

RESPOND to your child's answers.

Have fun! Show your child how much you enjoy playing together.