

Learning Experience

Stacking and Counting Blocks

Educational Purpose - Why is this important for children's learning?

Infants and young toddlers love cause and effects (stacking and knocking down blocks). This experience helps children gain early mathematical concepts such as forward counting, stacking upwards and counting from left to right.

Repetition is recommended for children to grasp the mathematical learning presented in this experience.

Resources needed

- Small blocks (or anything you can stack – lunch boxes, containers, boxes)

Create a clear area where you can have the blocks falling. Consider doing this on a carpet/mat to minimise the noise and blocks chipping furniture.

Description of what to do including prompts for questions to ask children

Using the blocks, start stacking the blocks up one by one while counting slowly. Encourage your child to join you to stack them. Role model beside them as you stack and count. In this experience, you may ask:

- How many blocks do we have now? Can you count them?
- 1...2...3...! Uh oh, it's fallen down! Let's try again.
- My turn! Your turn!
- I can see you want to knock it down. Ready... 1...2...3!

Possible extension

- Add more blocks to stack so you count higher. 'Let's see how many blocks we can stack before it falls!'
- Take the blocks off one by one to role model backwards counting

Incorporate this game in everyday life to encourage your child to count other things in the household, such as counting 4 four cups for mealtimes, invite child to bring one nappy to you for nappy change. Model counting two wipes as you take them out during nappy change.