Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building by Christy Hale

This beautiful book features short poems about buildings and building materials all over the world. Each double-page spread features an illustration of a child building on one side and a photograph of a building of the world on the other. Wonderful for preschool and young school-age.

Other fun books about Building:

- **My House** by Byron Barton—very simple book about a home. Toddlers and preschool.
- **Building Our House** by Jonathan Bean—A wonderful look at a family building a house on their own. Includes photographs from the Author’s own childhood when his parents built their home. Young schoolage.
- **Stanley the Builder** by William Bee—Simple board book about an intrepid guinea pig. Infants and Toddlers.
- **Billions of Bricks** by Kurt Cyrus—This is not only a book about all that goes into building with bricks, but also a clever counting book.
- **Blocks** by Irene Dickson—A very simple story about building with blocks and learning to share. Toddlers.
- **Builder Mouse** by Sodia Eldarova—A creative story about a mouse who builds with food. Preschool.
- **Construction** by Sally Sutton—This simple book features building and fun alliterative words. Toddlers and preschoolers.
- **The Almost Terrible Play Date** by Richard Torrey—A young boy and girl almost turn away from each other until they discover the fun of building together. Preschool.
- **Dig** by Andrea Zimmerman—Mr. Rally and his dog, Lightning, fix and build things all over town with their backhoe in this fun story with wonderful repetition. Preschool.

**Rhyme of the Month**

**Shapes**

(Tune: Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes)

Square, Circle, Triangle.
Square, Circle, Triangle.
Heart and Star and Rectangle
Square, Circle, Triangle.

*(Make these shapes with your hands or hold up the corresponding shape)*

**Poem of the Month**

**Pillow Forts**

Soft forms
Ever Changing
Tumble making
Caverns,
Secret Spaces,
Pillow Forts

Christie Hale

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Free STARS trainings are listed at [www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org)

You may register for STARS classes by clicking on the date of the class on the Calendar of the Pierce County Library website: [www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org)
**Sticks and Playdough Building**

Gather some short sticks and place them on a table with play dough.

Talk with the children about building and brainstorm ideas of things to build with the sticks and dough.

Perhaps draw a plan of what you all intend to build.

Perhaps assign a foreman (forewoman) and specific tasks for the activity the way a construction site might operate.

Repeatedly ask the children what else their building needs.

While they are building—talk about what their plan is—talk about the shapes, the weight, the length, the balance. Fill their building time with learning!

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**Block Play**

Children develop so many important skills during Block Play, that it should be encouraged and supported as much as possible. They explore the concepts of shape, size, number order, area, length, patterns, weight, gravity, balance, and cause and effect. They develop social emotional skills as they build together, and they develop language and literacy skills as they engage in conversation about their building. Because blocks are completely open-ended, the play varies depending on who is playing and what they bring to the play.

Some ideas for supporting Block Play:

- Share some of the titles recommended in this newsletter. Talk with the children about the story and how they might recreate it using classroom blocks.
- Collect photographs of world buildings to inspire more sophisticated structures.
- Photograph structures that children have built and add them to the building photographs.
- Add interesting items to the Block Play area occasionally—scarves, rocks, moss, branches, Q-tips, fabric scraps, board books, toy animals etc. Engage the children in a conversation about how the new items might be used.

You can find a myriad of early learning information at our website: [http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/)
(in the parents/caregivers section of the Kids/Teens menu)