

Block Play Stages

Stage 1 (ages 2-3) non-construction

Children explore the properties of blocks by moving, touching, holding and feeling as opposed to building.

Stage 2 (age 3) - repetition

Children stack blocks vertically to form a tower or lay them horizontally on the road.

Stage 3 (ages 3-4) - bridging

Children begin building a bridge by connecting two separate blocks with a third to build a bridge.

Stage 4 (age 4) - enclosures

The child creates a space to enclose an object or area. Once they have mastered enclosures with the blocks lying flat, they will move on to vertical enclosures.

Stage 5 (ages 5-6) - structural

During this stage of play, buildings become more complex. Symmetrical patterns begin to appear and children begin to name their structures.

Stage 6 (ages 5-6) - functional

Children work cooperatively to build a common structure. They will decide before they start what they are going to build, and assign each other specific roles. Children will want to keep the structure up for several days to continue working and to start dramatic play around the structure.