

Cleaning Up

Warn the children far enough ahead of time that they have time to bring their play to a conclusion. It helps when everyone, including the teacher, helps put the blocks away.

Always categorize blocks neatly when putting them away. **NO DUMPING THEM IN A BUCKET.**

Return extra accessories to the storage area and arrange the remaining ones so they are attractive, colorful accents in the room. Leaving accessories out for too long will cause the children to lose interest in them.

View cleaning up as a positive learning experience. Treat the process as a matching and sorting activity:

1. Shape tickets. Laminate block shapes on pieces of poster paper and each child pick up all the blocks that match the ticket he/she has drawn.
2. Number tickets. Place a range of numbers on laminated poster board and each child picks up the number of blocks as on the ticket.
3. Offer choices – Do you want to pick up the long ones or the short ones? When they have a choice, they are more cooperative.
4. Singing and chanting. (Freeze dance)
5. Choosing shelves. Children select a shelf and place the blocks on that shelf.