

Building & Block Book List

Adamson, Heather. ***Homes in Many Cultures***. Capstone, 2009. Homes from different countries of the world are briefly described along with photographs allowing children to see similarities and differences between the structures.

Alling, Niki. ***When I Build with Blocks***. Niki Alling, 2014. This book is perfect to stimulate Pre-K children with ideas of different things they can build with blocks or Legos.

Ashley G. ***Out of Shapes***. Little Simon, 2015. A board book for the youngest child on how shapes can be stacked to make various objects. Share the book and then hand out Duplos or large blocks!

Barton, Bryon. ***Building a House***. Mulberry, 1990. A simple text and bright colored illustrations show how a house is constructed. This is a good book to cover construction basics for toddlers and preschoolers.

Bean, Jonathon. ***Building Our House***. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2013. Winner of the 2013 *Boston Globe* Horn Book Award for Best Picture Book, this book depicts a family who builds their house completely by themselves, from the ground up, in a year-and-a-half.

Beaty, Andrea. ***Iggy Peck, Architect***. Abrams, 2007. Iggy has enjoyed building things since the age of two, when he started stacking his dirty diapers. When his second grade class gets stranded on an island during a picnic, Iggy directs the class in the building of a suspension bridge.

Beaty, Andrea. ***Rosie Revere, Engineer***. Abrams, 2013. Rosie loves to build gadgets and dreams of becoming an engineer. When a relative, Rosie the Riveter, comes for a visit, young Rosie is inspired to make an airplane. For elementary age children.

Crosbie, Michael J. ***Architecture Shapes***. John Wiley & Sons, 1983. (Others in series) This board book for younger children shows shapes through the composition and arrangement of windows in buildings.

Crosbie, Michael. ***Arches to Zigzags***. Abrams, 2000. Photographs lead young readers through an alphabet of terms related to architecture. Both upper and lowercase letters are displayed.

Dahl, Michael. ***One Big Building: A Counting Book About Construction***. Picture Window Books, 2004. Essentially a counting book for the younger set, brightly colored pictures depict the numbers one through twelve, from one construction plan to a twelve-story building.

Doering, Amanda. ***Homes Around the World ABC: An Alphabet Book***. Capstone, 2005. Another alphabet book, this time the letters depict different types of homes that can be found around the world.

Fleming, Denise. ***Alphabet Under Construction***. Henry Holt, 2002. Here the alphabet is constructed, letter by letter, by an eager mouse who has a project deadline. Fleming's bright colored illustrations made by cotton pulp and stencils add to the appeal.

Galdone, Paul. ***The Three Little Pigs***. HMH Books, 2010. This version relates the traditional tale with the three pigs building houses of straw, wood, and brick respectively; two pigs have an unfortunate end, and the wolf's demise is in a pot of boiling water.

Garcia, Emma. ***Tap Tap Bang Bang***. Boxer Books, 2013. A perfect board book for the youngest listeners depicting building tools and introducing the sounds they make.

Gibbons, Gail. ***How a House is Built***. Holiday House, 1990. This book, geared for kindergarten and early elementary aged children, shows how building a house can be a complex process with many different experts involved, starting with the architect.

Gibbons, Gail. ***Tool Book***. Holiday House, 1982. A display of the various tools a builder would use and an explanation of how they are used. This is a good choice for preschool and early elementary grades.

Guarnaccia, Steve. ***The Three Little Pigs: An Architectural Tale***. Abrams, 2010. A more pretentious version of the traditional tale with the three houses designed by three famous architects—Frank Gehry, Phillip Johnson, and Frank Lloyd Wright.

Hale, Christy. ***Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building***. Lee & Low, 2012. Preschoolers playing with various objects build structures that are shown through illustrations and described in concrete poetry. Accompanying the art are photographs of buildings from around the world.

Hunter, Ryan Ann. ***Into the Sky***. Holiday House, 1998. Skyscrapers throughout history are described along with information on how skyscrapers are built.

Hutchins, Pat. ***Changes, Changes***. Aladdin, 1987. A wordless story about a wooden couple who have built a house out of blocks, but need to transform it into a fire engine, and then a boat, when the house catches on fire.

Kellogg, Steven. ***The Three Little Pigs***. Harper Collins, 2002. A fractured version of the traditional tale that includes a wafflery. The pigs' homes are still built of straw, wood and brick, but the wolf ends up as a beach bum.

Laden, Nina. ***Roberto, The Insect Architect***. Chronicle, 2000. Roberto is a termite who goes against the norm because he wants to be an architect and build homes from wood. Woodworking tools are displayed throughout the tale.

Midda, Sarah. ***How to Build an A***. Artisan, 2008. Eleven foam shapes in a mesh storage bag are included with the book that depicts tiny people using blocks to build letters of the alphabet.

Moore, Max. ***Homes Around the World***. DK Reader, 2009. A level one DK reader that describes various unusual houses around the world including pueblos, tree houses and yurts.

Morris, Ann. ***Houses and Homes***. (*Around the World Series*). HarperCollins, 1995. Elementary aged children should enjoy seeing photographs from houses around the world, but also the families that live in the dwellings.

Murphy, Stuart J. ***Jack The Builder***. (*Math Start Series*). HarperCollins, 2006. Jack stacks blocks, adding a few each time, to make different objects. Children can learn math skills while adding on the number of blocks Jack uses each time.

Pallotta, Jerry. ***The Construction Alphabet Book***. Charlesbridge, 2006. Upper-and-lower case letters depict different types of construction equipment. Included is a brief description of how each is used along with the sound it makes.

Portis, Antoinette. ***Not a Box***. HarperCollins, 2006. A rabbit engages in imaginative play by transforming his empty cardboard box into a race car, a robot etc.

Rinker, Sherri Duskey. ***Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site***. Chronicle, 2011. All the different trucks at a construction say “good night” after a hard day of work. Perfect for young children that love big trucks.

Ritchie, Scot. ***Look at That Building: A First Book of Structures***. Kids Can Press, 2011. Five friends want to build a doghouse and head to the library where they gain much knowledge about building fundamentals.

Rockwell, Anne. ***The Toolbox***. Walker Childrens, 2006. Young children learn the names of common tools that reside in the toolbox in this board book.

Rueda, Claudia. ***Huff and Puff***. Abrams, 2012. Children are invited to play the part of the wolf by huffing and puffing at the pig’s houses through the book’s die-cut holes. The sweet ending is for very young children, as the wolf ends up blowing out the candles of a birthday cake.

Scieszka, Jon. ***The True Story of the Three Little Pigs***. Viking 1989; also 1999. One of the most popular fractured tales ever published that contains the wolf’s version of what happened to the three pigs.

Shulman, Lisa. ***Old MacDonald Had a Workshop***. Puffin Books, 2004. For preschoolers who love tools, this familiar tune can be used to sing this picture book about tools and the sounds they make. At the end, the reader finds Old MacDonald is a female sheep.

Sobel, June. ***B is for Bulldozer: A Construction ABC***. HMH Books, 2013. A busy construction site is the setting for this book as letters of the alphabet are introduced. The final product built – a roller coaster!

Stevenson, Robert Louis. ***Block City***. Illustrations by Anne Baasch. Songbird Publishing, 2012. Robert Louis Stevenson’s poem is accompanied by illustrations depicting a boy building with blocks and creating an elaborate landscape.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. ***Block City***. Illustrations by Daniel Kirk. Simon & Schuster, 2005. Another illustrated version of Stevenson’s poem but this boy’s building includes demolition at the end of the story.

Teague, Mark. *The Three Little Pigs and the Somewhat Bad Wolf*. Orchard, 2013. Another twisted version of this familiar tale with the wolf still alive at the end of the story. Humorous illustrations add to the silliness of the story.

Tryon, Leslie. *Albert's Alphabet*. Aladdin, 1994. Albert, the school carpenter, is given until 3:00 p.m. to build every letter of the alphabet on the walking path at the school playground. Albert succeeds in a very ingenious way and children will have fun seeing how he builds the letters.

Van Dusen, Chris. *If I Built a House*. Dial, 2012. Jack uses his imagination to describe the house he would build which would include a race track and a gigantic slide.

RESOURCE BOOKS

Chalufour, Ingrid. *Building Structures with Young Children*. Redleaf Press, 2004. Part of the publisher's Young Scientist series, this resource will help adults guide young children while they explore building different block structures. Children can also be introduced to some simple science concepts, making this a great resource for STEM programs.

Hansel, Rosanne Regan. *Creative Block Play: A Comprehensive Guide to Learning through Building*. Redleaf Press, 2016.

This book provides the guidance and inspiration to use blocks to teach 21st century skills and encourage development in a variety of domains. Learn how to: Set-up an inviting place to learn and create with blocks, inspire and extend construction with unexpected materials and support and encourage children during exploration with blocks

Hirsch, Elisabeth S. *The Block Book. 3rd Edition*. NAEYC, 1996. One of the earliest resources published on block building, this not only emphasizes children's exploration, but also stresses communication skills children have when playing with blocks. Published by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

MacDonald, Sharon. *Block Play*. Gryphon, 2001. Described as "The Complete Guide to Learning and Playing with Blocks," this book includes activities, and

describes what children learn. The book was written by a person who is well-known for her teacher trainings.

Newburger, Abigail. ***Teaching Numeracy, Language, and Literacy with Blocks***. Redleaf, 2006.

This book focuses on the seven stages of block play, helping adults stimulate children's play with blocks and observing their activity to assist with the development of math, reading, and vocabulary.

Phelps, Pamela C. ***Let's Build: Strong Foundations in Language, math and Social Skills***. Gryphon House, 2012.

The author provides theme-based ideas, children's book titles that support block play and strategies for scaffolding the block play experience.

Pollman, Mary Jo. ***Blocks and Beyond: Strengthening Early Math and Science Skills Through Spatial Learning***. Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., 2010.

Age-appropriate activities for children in preschool through grade three, this guide is designed to help children improve their spatial skills with blocks and other everyday items such as play dough.