



EXPERIMENTING WITH ENGINEERING

'BUILDING UP' YOUR CHILD(REN)'S BUILDING SKILLS

Read some books on building and construction together. Here are a few of our favorites:

Bigger! Bigger!
by Leslie Patricelli

Brick By Brick
by Heidi Sheffield

Blocks
by Irene Dickson

Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building
by Christy Hale

Don't be afraid to use specific vocabulary when reading books or talking with your children about construction. This is a great opportunity to introduce novel words like "backhoe" or "bulldozer."

The bigger of a variety of words your child is exposed to, the easier it will be for them to learn to read when the time comes!

Put out a variety of building materials -- conventional and unconventional -- as an invitation for your child(ren) to build.

Experimenting with different materials will allow your child(ren) to learn more about other early scientific concepts like light and heavy.

Ask open-ended questions while your child is building to enhance the learning experience:

Examples: "Which building material makes a tower that is hardest to knock over?"

Print (and laminate, if possible) some pictures of famous landmarks and put them up near your child's play area. They can use them as inspiration for their own building projects!

Make sure to include buildings from around the world to introduce your child(ren) to different cultures' architectural styles.

Most of all, remember to HAVE FUN!