

Topics: Building,
Counting, Motor Skills,
Observations

Materials List

- ✓ 25 (or more) Boxes (large and sturdy)
- ✓ Optional: Sticky-back vinyl or contact paper, permanent marker, and/or other materials for decoration

This activity can be used to support the teaching of:

- Mathematics Learning and Development
- Physical and Motor Development
- Language and Literacy Development

Box Blocks

These Big Blocks Help Develop Big Imaginations!



Sometimes the simplest idea can provide children with hours of fun. Teachers of young children can use boxes like big blocks for a variety of activities.

Assembly

1. Assemble the boxes. If desired, decorate the boxes. Color-coding the boxes with sticky-back vinyl or adding numbers and letters will allow teachers to use the blocks in a greater variety of ways. Covering the boxes will also make them more durable, extending their play-life.

To Do and Notice

Allow students to build and create using the boxes as a medium. For more directed play, teachers can challenge young learners in many ways. Here are some examples:

1. How many boxes can you stack? Count the boxes as you stack them.
2. What is the tallest tower you can build? How tall is it? Let's measure it!
3. Can you build a house with the blocks? Can you get inside the house?

If the Box Blocks are color-coded or have letters or numbers, teachers can use them for patterning, spelling, and arithmetic activities.

The Content Behind the Activity

Young learners love boxes! These large Box Blocks allow students to build on a different scale than small blocks allow. Playing with these blocks develops gross motor skills and can be used to support the teaching of academic skills such as learning colors, counting, addition, and measurement.

Taking it Further

Create Box Blocks of varying weights by placing objects inside the boxes before sealing them.

Add objects to the boxes before sealing to create Box Blocks that make different sounds when moved around.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=3 for more resources!)