



Visual Support Guide: Building Block Ideas

What?

The building block ideas visual support shows pictures of buildings and structures children can build using blocks. Display these visuals in the block area to help provide play ideas and support children to engage more independently during block play.

Why?

- This visual support can help children who have difficulty with initiating play with blocks or elaborating on an initial play idea to sustain their play. Visuals of what to build with blocks can help a child begin play. Multiple options of structures invite a child to explore different constructions and stay longer in the activity.
- You can use the visual building blocks ideas visuals in a couple of ways.
 - Help a child get started with block play.
 - Help a child extend an original idea and engage longer or in more complex pretend play.

How?

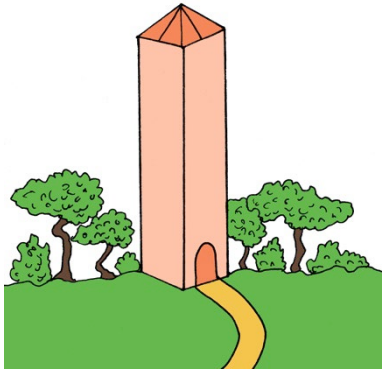
- Make building block ideas visuals.
 - Print the pictures on paper and laminate. Translate the names of the buildings and structures into the languages spoken by the children in your classroom.
 - Post the chart in the block area.
- Use building block ideas visuals.
 - Show the pictures to a child who has difficulty getting started. Help the child choose a building or structure. Begin with describing the pictures. You can say, "Here are ideas of things you can build with blocks."
 - Using language the child can understand, support them to choose what they'd like to build. You can say, "What do you want to build first – a tower or an apartment building?" Point to each symbol as you say the word to help the child understand.
 - If a child completes a construction quickly and seems stuck or bored, invite the child to look at the visuals for ideas of what more to build. You can say, "What else can you build right next to the school?" or "That's your house, and that's our school. How do get from your house to our school?"

Building Block Ideas

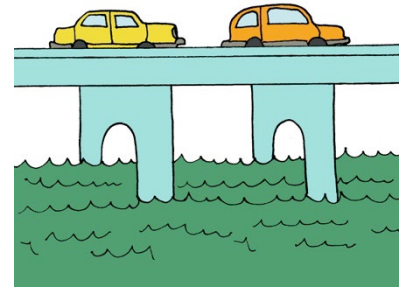
Apartment Building



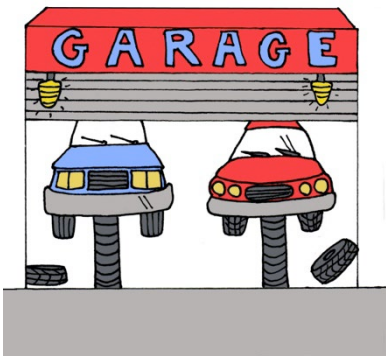
Tower



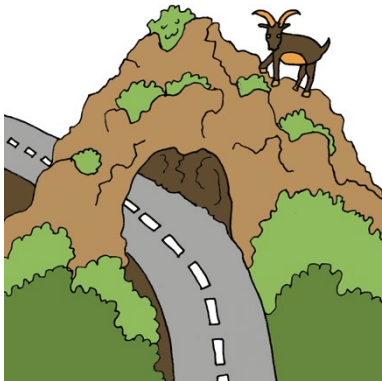
Bridge



Garage



Tunnel



House



Playground



Zoo



School

