Build Together

I made my blocks just like yours.

While building with blocks and other materials, copy what your child builds and later invite her to follow your lead.

Your child may become more aware of patterns and learn that patterns can be repeated or varied.

Here are some other things we can build with.
Why this is important

When you copy something your child builds, you help her notice and learn about patterns. Describing what you are doing as you copy her gives her language to describe her actions. If she wants to use the blocks to build what you are building, she will need to listen to words that give directions. Gaining directions from words is an important skill that she will use throughout her life.

What you do

- Sit with your child and invite her to join you in playing with blocks. Arrange the blocks so that you both have a few to play with. Make sure your blocks are similar to hers.

- Encourage your child to begin building with her blocks, and then copy her movements. Talk about what you are doing. I'm putting my long block on its side, just like you did.

- Point out similarities between the two finished structures.

- Let your child choose her blocks, and do not insist that she imitate you or build in a particular way. At first, she may not sit still for the game or fully understand what you are asking her to do.

- Invite her to be the leader again, and this time ask for direction as you play. What block should I use next?

- Make the game challenging by giving her directions to follow as you build a specific object such as a train. Let's each make a train. Build your structure slowly from left to right, and ask her to find each block that you use. Find your big green block and that will be the engine.

Another idea

Look for other materials to use for a shared activity. You could string a necklace together or build a fence with sticks. Any matched set of items will work.

Let’s read together!

Hands Can
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