

This Month's Homework:

- ✓ Building with blocks can be an excellent learning experience for young children. Most preschoolers learn best by trying things out and by telling others about their ideas and discoveries. Young children learn about math while playing with blocks.
- ✓ Engage in conversation with your child during block play. Asking questions can encourage math learning.
 - How many more blocks will you need to make that building?
 - What's another way to build a bridge with these sorts of blocks?
 - I wonder if we have enough blocks to build a road all the way to the wall?
- ✓ Converse with your child as you explore and play with blocks and use words to describe the characteristics of matter using words such as smooth, flat and heavy. When your child is experimenting with blocks and they fall, discuss cause and effect and force.
- ✓ Make time and space for blocks. Find a spot to build so children can add to their structure over two or three days. If you can't save it, take a photo or draw a picture of the construction.
- ✓ Save household materials for building. Objects such as small empty boxes, scrap wood, empty milk cartons and paper towel tubes can be used for building
- ✓ Follow your child's lead in block play. Support their project by showing interest and pointing out the details, such as, "Look how tall your building is!"
- ✓ Ask open-ended questions about the building process. As an example, "Tell me about what you are building? What animals live in your barn?" Open-ended questions don't have one correct answer; rather, they expand the possibilities and invite children to talk about their understanding of the world.
- ✓ Register for the online tools. If you have not done so yet, register for a Sign Up Genius account at <https://www.signupgenius.com> to receive Soar in 4 notifications and visit the Soar in 4 website at <http://www.soarin4.org/> for additional information and resources.

Standards Based Learning:

- V.B.a.1 Demonstrates the use of simple tools and equipment for observing objects or structure
- V.B.a.2 Examines objects and makes comparisons
- V.B.b.1 Explores physical properties and creative use of objects or matter.

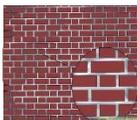
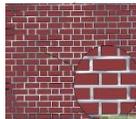
Building and Structures at the Museum



Blocks of Imagination!

Schedule for the evening:

- ✦ **5:30-6:00 – Family Dinner in the Courtyard – courtesy of Outback**
 - **United Way Suncoast: Footsteps 2 Brilliance & Free Tax Preparation**
- ✦ **6:00 – Welcome - Planetarium Lobby**
- ✦ **6:10 – Get Connected, Get Answers**
 - **Parenting Matters - 941-756-3007**
- ✦ **6:20 – Ms. Luanne's Front Porch**
- ✦ **6:30– Signs and Symbols Expedition - Look for the symbols to follow the schedule for your school:**

School	6:30	6:45	7:00	7:15
Ballard	Story Telling 	Foam Blocks 	Drumming 	Brick Blocks 
Rogers Garden Bullock	Foam Blocks 	Drumming 	Brick Blocks 	Story Telling 
Sea Breeze	Drumming 	Brick Blocks 	Story Telling 	Foam Blocks 

Dinner Questions to Get those Little Ones Laughing and Talking

- ? If you could be any animal for a day, what would you be?
- ? If you could make your own movie, what the story be?
- ? If you were could shrink to the size of a tiny ant, what would you do?
- ? If you could build anything in our backyard, what would it be?
- ? If you could make one rule that everyone in the world had to follow, what would it be?



Plants and animals are amazing builders too. Can you find these builders (or their handiwork) in the museum?

<p>This structure was built by a VERY protective mother; leaves, twigs and sand hide her eggs. When her babies move on, other animals will hide here!</p>	 <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>This honeycomb would have been built by dozens of workers. Luckily they've all left, or we wouldn't want to get too close!</p>	 <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Cones, crowns, and spirals! Spidery, toothy, or striped! These are the homes of many different animals, each of which builds their own special house!</p>	 <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Built with the shells, teeth and bones of long ago animals, this rock is the very "Floor-ida" under our feet.</p>	 <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>This animal builds tunnels in the sand, 16 feet deep and 40 feet long. The home it builds keeps it safe and shelters many other animals, especially in times of fire!</p>	 <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>This majestic flying builder goes for size and height. The largest construction ever seen was over 9 feet wide and built 20 feet up!</p>	 <input type="checkbox"/>

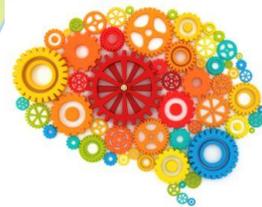
Ms. Luanne's Front Porch: use the words in the box to fill in the blanks:

An _____ is a person who plans buildings and structures. When you build, you have the chance to make your own _____. You can feel pride when you _____ something that did not exist before. Whether you build a sky scraper or a bridge or a house, you are learning _____ and _____. You can tell a _____ about what you have built. The possibilities are _____!



30-second Pair & Share:
Share something that you learned in this lesson. How can this affect your family story?

**architect
 design
 create
 math
 science
 story
 limitless**



Building helps young children improve eye-hand coordination, learn spatial skills and the properties of objects. Important social interaction takes place as children show and explain what they have built. Making choices about how and what to build encourages them to compare and contrast materials and structures. Children who experiment and make changes to improve what they have built learn problem solving skills. They even learn about the forces of gravity when the blocks come tumbling down!