

Did you know?

# Construction Play

Beverie Dietze



## What do we mean by construction play?

Construction play refers to play experiences that require children to piece together materials such as wooden blocks to create a bigger picture, whether it is a representation of something they have seen before or comes from their imagination.

It is through construction play that children learn about mathematical and scientific principles. They pile the blocks to make a tower or lay the blocks on the floor in rows, either horizontally or vertically. They begin to experiment by connecting blocks with space. They learn to make bridges by trial and error and they discover what characteristics and structuring processes must be present for balance to occur. They learn about making enclosures in the space that is available to them, and how to combine the principles of making enclosures with bridging. This leads them to become “technical” architects or scientists. As children become more advanced in their construction, they learn about the principles of symmetry, patterns, balance, and designs needed in the creation process.

## Examples of Math and Science Skills Learned through construction

- ▶ Patterns
- ▶ Geometry
- ▶ Part/whole concepts
- ▶ Fractions
- ▶ Adding/subtracting
- ▶ Quantity
- ▶ Length
- ▶ Balance
- ▶ Inductive thinking
- ▶ Spatial reasoning
- ▶ Properties of matter
- ▶ Equality/inequality
- ▶ Size Relationships
- ▶ Measurement
- ▶ Symmetry
- ▶ Classification
- ▶ Volume/width
- ▶ Self in space
- ▶ Law of gravity
- ▶ Discovery
- ▶ Interaction of forces

# Additional Resources

## Web Resources for Construction Play

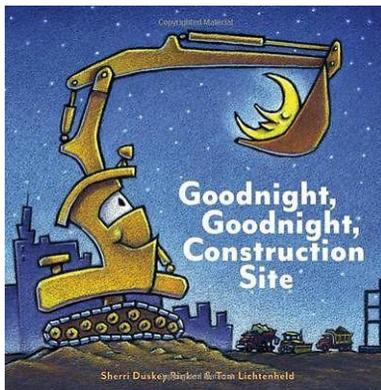
<http://cmascanada.ca/2012/01/27/constructive-play-in-early-learning-environments/>

[http://www.isaeplay.org/Resource\\_Articles/YC\\_Constructive\\_Play.pdf](http://www.isaeplay.org/Resource_Articles/YC_Constructive_Play.pdf)

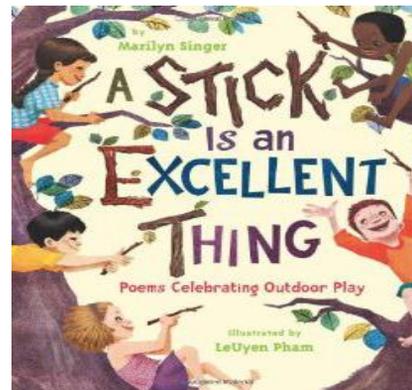
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7OEpnAyBQ>

## Some interesting children's books

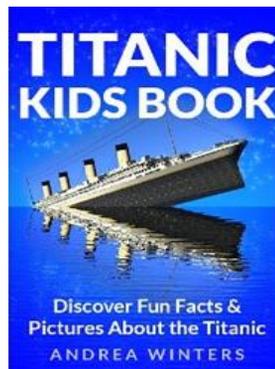
**Good night, Good night, Construction site**  
by Sherri Duskey Rinker



**A stick is an excellent thing**  
by Marilyn Singer



**Titanic kids book**  
by Andrea Winters



# About the Author

Beverlie Dietze has been researching and writing about children’s outdoor play for more than twenty years. Her passion is to support children and adults in creating active, rich, and intriguing outdoor play experiences with various materials in all seasons.



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