

## Core Skills Analysis

### Physical Development

- Jax developed fine motor skills through the precise movements required to carefully remove and place Jenga blocks without toppling the tower.
- The activity strengthened Jax's hand-eye coordination as they had to align their hand movements with visual cues to maintain tower stability.
- Playing Jenga enhanced Jax's spatial awareness by understanding the physical balance and positioning of blocks to prevent collapse.

### Cognitive Development

- Jax practiced strategic thinking by planning which blocks to remove and where to place them to maintain the tower's stability.
- The game encouraged problem-solving skills as Jax had to identify weak spots and anticipate consequences before making a move.
- Playing Jenga cultivated patience and focus, requiring Jax to act thoughtfully and avoid impulsive decisions.

### Social and Emotional Development

- Jax experienced social interaction by taking turns with others, fostering cooperation and respect during the game.
- The game encouraged communication skills as Jax verbally discussed turns, strategies, and reactions with peers.
- Emotional regulation was promoted as Jax learned to manage excitement and frustration, particularly when the tower fell.
- Listening skills improved through paying attention to game rules and other players' strategies.

### Tips

To extend Jax's learning from playing Jenga, encourage him to create his own version of the game using recycled materials to deepen understanding of balance and structure. Introduce timed challenges or variations such as building different shapes to enhance strategic flexibility and fine motor precision. Organize group Jenga tournaments to foster collaboration and friendly competition while strengthening communication and social skills. Additionally, use storytelling prompts related to the game scenario to build language development and emotional expression, helping Jax articulate feelings around winning, losing, and teamwork.

### Book Recommendations

- [Iggy Peck, Architect](#) by Andrea Beaty: A charming story that inspires creativity and interest in building structures, perfect for connecting with hands-on activities like Jenga.
- [The Mixed-Up Tower](#) by Mary Elizabeth Salzmänn: This book explores building and balance through a fun narrative, supporting concepts of problem-solving and patience.
- [Waiting Is Not Easy!](#) by Mo Willems: A lighthearted read about managing patience and frustration, which aligns well with the emotional skills developed during games like Jenga.

### Learning Standards

- ACELA1432 – Developing patience and turn-taking during group play.
- ACPPS015 – Using hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills to manipulate objects carefully.
- ACELY1651 – Engaging in simple planning and strategizing to solve problems.
- ACPPS016 – Practicing social skills such as sharing, cooperating, and communicating.
- ACELY1648 – Listening to and understanding instructions during gameplay.

### **Try This Next**

- Create a 'Jenga Journal' worksheet where Jax records which blocks he chose and why to reflect on strategy and decision-making.
- Design a drawing task where Jax sketches different tower shapes and predicts potential weak spots before building.
- Develop a turn-taking checklist or rule-review quiz to reinforce listening and communication skills during gameplay.

### **Growth Beyond Academics**

This activity reveals Jax's growing capacity to manage frustration and excitement, highlighting increased emotional regulation and patience. Socially, Jax is enhancing cooperation and communication by engaging in shared turn-taking and supportive cheering, fostering a positive attitude toward collaboration and empathy.