

Core Skills Analysis

Cognitive Development

- Learnt about strategic thinking by deciding which Jenga block to remove without toppling the tower.
- Developed problem-solving skills through anticipating how extracting a certain block affects the tower's stability.
- Enhanced fine motor skills by carefully manipulating small wooden blocks.
- Understood concepts of balance, gravity, and weight distribution through hands-on interaction.

Social-Emotional Learning

- Practiced patience and turn-taking during gameplay.
- Improved focus and concentration to maintain composure while selecting blocks under pressure.
- Experienced healthy competition, learning to manage excitement and potential frustration.
- Built communication skills when playing cooperatively or discussing strategies with peers.

Tips

To further deepen understanding, encourage students to observe and record which block removals make the tower unstable and hypothesize why. Introduce basic physics concepts like center of gravity by experimenting with the blocks in different orientations. Use math to count moves or calculate probabilities of collapsing the tower based on block positions. Foster patience and social skills by organizing team-based Jenga games or designing a cooperative challenge where the group works together to achieve a goal without toppling the tower.

Book Recommendations

- [Physics of Fun: How Gravity Works](#) by Anna Smith: A child-friendly introduction to the principles of gravity, balance, and forces explained with playful examples and experiments.
- [Mind Your Moves: Games That Teach Us](#) by Ben Carter: Explores strategic thinking and the science behind popular games including block-stacking challenges like Jenga.
- [The Art of Patience: Playing Games Together](#) by Mila Hart: Teaches children the importance of patience, focus, and good sportsmanship through fun multiplayer games.

Learning Standards

- CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.3.MD.A.1 - Understand concepts of area and volume related to spatial reasoning.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.1 - Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 2 topics and texts.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.3 - Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts.

Try This Next

- Create a worksheet where students diagram and label the Jenga tower layers and predict the safest blocks to remove.
- Develop quiz questions on concepts like gravity, balance, and strategy based on game observations.
- Challenge students to design their own block-stacking game with new rules focusing on engineering principles.

- Use a writing prompt asking students to describe their emotions during their winning or losing turns to enhance social-emotional awareness.