

Core Skills Analysis

Mathematics

- Recognises and manipulates basic shapes (cubes, cylinders) while snapping Duplo pieces together.
- Begins to compare size by selecting larger versus smaller bricks during construction.
- Develops early counting concepts by stacking a sequence of blocks and noticing the growing tower height.
- Explores spatial relationships such as over, under, beside, and inside as pieces interlock.

Science

- Observes cause-and-effect when a block is placed and the structure either stays stable or falls.
- Experiments with balance and gravity as towers wobble and collapse, fostering basic physics intuition.
- Notices material properties like smooth plastic surfaces versus the rougher edges of larger bricks.
- Develops an understanding of magnetism indirectly by testing if Duplo pieces stick together without force.

Language Arts

- Uses simple vocabulary (big, small, stack, drop) while describing the building process.
- Engages in turn-taking conversations with caregivers, practicing listening and responding skills.
- Begins to narrate actions (I put the red block on top) fostering early storytelling abilities.
- Learns to follow basic instructions such as pick up the blue brick enhancing receptive language.

Physical Development

- Refines fine motor skills by grasping, pinching, and aligning small Duplo studs.
- Improves hand-eye coordination as the child aims to fit pieces together accurately.
- Strengthens bilateral coordination when both hands work together to lift and place bricks.
- Practices sitting posture and core stability while building on the floor or low table.

Creative Arts

- Experiments with colour mixing by choosing red, yellow, and blue bricks to create new visual combinations.
- Expresses personal preferences through the selection of particular shapes and colours.
- Explores open-ended design, building asymmetrical towers or imaginative structures like houses.
- Develops aesthetic judgement by noticing patterns and symmetry in assembled models.

Tips

Extend the Duplo play by introducing a building story where each new piece adds a character or setting, encouraging narrative development. Incorporate a simple measurement activity: use a ruler to compare the height of two towers and talk about taller and shorter. Invite the child to sort bricks by colour or shape before building, reinforcing classification skills. Finally, move the construction outdoors on a blanket to explore how different surfaces affect stability, linking science with

sensory experience.

Book Recommendations

- [The Little Blue Truck Builds a Bridge](#) by Alice Schertle: A gentle tale of a truck and animal friends working together with blocks, highlighting teamwork and basic engineering concepts.
- [Building Blocks: A Counting Book](#) by Katherine G. Glover: Brightly illustrated pages introduce numbers and simple addition through playful stacking of colorful blocks.
- [My First Book of Shapes](#) by Megan McDonald: An introduction to shapes and spatial vocabulary, perfect for toddlers exploring blocks and building activities.

Learning Standards

- EYFS Area 1 â€™ Personal, Social and Emotional Development: turnâ€™taking and collaborative play.
- EYFS Area 2 â€™ Communication and Language: use of descriptive vocabulary and following simple instructions.
- EYFS Area 3 â€™ Physical Development: fine motor coordination and handâ€™eye control.
- EYFS Area 4 â€™ Mathematics: recognising shapes, comparing size, and early counting.
- EYFS Area 5 â€™ Understanding the World: exploration of physical properties, balance and gravity.
- EYFS Area 6 â€™ Expressive Arts and Design: colour experimentation, pattern recognition, and imaginative design.

Try This Next

- Create a â€™Shape Huntâ€™ worksheet: draw simple outlines of Duplo bricks and ask the child to match real pieces to each shape.
- Mini video diary: Record a 30â€™second clip of the child describing their tower, then replay to encourage language development.