Lego Fun with Mandarin! (乐高学中文! Lè gāo xué zhōngwén!)

Materials Needed:

- Assortment of Lego bricks in basic colors (specifically including red, blue, yellow, green, white)
- Optional: Pre-made flashcards with Pinyin and Chinese characters for colors/numbers
- A small container or designated mat area for sorting Lego bricks

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Lesson Activities:

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Greet the student warmly: "你好! Nǐ hǎo!" (Hello!)
- Introduce the lesson's fun theme: "Today, we'll learn Mandarin using Legos! 今天我们用乐高学中文! Jīntiān wǒmen yòng Lè gāo xué zhōngwén!"
- Show excitement about using their favorite toy for learning.

2. Learning Colors (10 minutes)

- Introduce one color at a time using a Lego brick.
- **Red (红色 hóng sè):** Hold up a red Lego. Say "红色 hóng sè". Have the student repeat 2-3 times. Ask the student to find another 红色 brick.
- **Blue (蓝色 lán sè):** Repeat the process with a blue Lego. Say "蓝色 lán sè". Student repeats and finds one.
- **Yellow (黄色 huáng sè):** Repeat with yellow. Say "黄色 huáng sè". Student repeats and finds one.
- **Green (绿色 lǜ sè):** Repeat with green. Say "绿色 lǜ sè". Student repeats and finds one.
- **White (白色 bái sè):** Repeat with white. Say "白色 bái sè". Student repeats and finds one.
- Use optional flashcards to reinforce visual recognition of Pinyin/characters if desired. Practice all colors together.

3. Activity - Color Sorting Game (10 minutes)

- Mix a pile of the five colors of Lego bricks on the mat or in the container.
- Instruct the student: "Let's sort the Legos! Put all the 红色 here, all the 蓝色 there..." (Use gestures).
- As the student sorts, encourage them to say the Mandarin color name for each pile they create. ("This pile is 红色 hóng sè", "This pile is 蓝色 lán sè", etc.). Provide help and praise.

4. Learning Numbers 1-5 (5 minutes)

- Use Lego bricks to introduce numbers.
- Stack one brick: "一 yī" (one). Have the student repeat.
- Stack two bricks: "二 èr" (two). Student repeats.
- Continue up to five: "三 sān" (three), "四 sì" (four), "五 wǔ" (five). Have the student repeat each number.
- Quick practice: Hold up 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 fingers and have the student count out that many Lego bricks, saying the number in Mandarin.

5. Activity - Build & Say (10 minutes)

- Introduce the simple sentence structure: "□□ [□□] □□□" (Zhè shì [yánsè] de Lè gāo) - "This is a [color] Lego."
- Model first: Hold up a green Lego and say clearly: "□□□□□□□" (Zhè shì lǜ sè de Lè gāo).
- Encourage the student to pick up a Lego brick. Ask (in English is fine initially): "What color is this?" Wait for the Mandarin color name.
- Help them construct the sentence: "Zhè shì... [their color word]... de Lè gāo."
- Let the student build a small tower or structure. As they add bricks, encourage them to name the color or try the simple sentence. Focus on participation and effort, not perfection.

6. Wrap-up & Review (5 minutes)

- Quickly review the colors and numbers learned using the Lego bricks. Point to different colored bricks and ask "What color?" (□□□□? Shénme yánsè?). Count a small stack together.
- Offer lots of positive reinforcement: "Great job! □□□□□! Nǐ zuò de hěn hǎo!" or "You are awesome! □□□! Nǐ hěn bàng!"
- End the lesson with a cheerful goodbye: "□□! Zàijiàn!" (Goodbye!)