Rock Blocks

Rocks are easy to find and many children are fascinated by the variety of colors, shapes, weights and textures rocks can exhibit. Look for rocks by digging in your flower beds, hiking along trails, in empty lots or at the edges of fields. The rock pit at The Wilderness Center is also available. Take an empty egg carton for your child to collect and store rocks. At home try sorting them by shape, color, or texture. Try writing or drawing on the sidewalk. Sandstone will rub off from the friction of being pushed against the concrete. Paint rocks with water to see how they change color. Draw on larger ones with sidewalk chalk. Did you know that chalk is a rock!

Blocks are some of the best toys and tools for children. They allow imaginative young minds to be creative with building. Whether children are building corrals or castles, fire engines or forts, skyscrapers or space ships, they are constructing a physical structure and an imaginative framework in which to play.

When children build, they experiment with physics concepts such as weight, volume, size and balance. As young engineers, they discover which structures or building designs are solid and which ones are weak or unstable.

Think of things to build with your rocks by maybe adding small toy animals, action figures, or sticks to create a fairy garden or imaginary town. Stack your rocks into towers or buildings. Build fences, maps, zoos or walls. Take photos of your child’s creations so they can be remembered when the rocks are rebuilt into something new.