

**Froebel Trust's Annual Lecture:
Block by Block**

**Additional Resources to Connect with Block Play:
Children's Picture Books & Resources for Teachers**

Prepared by Jane Clarke, Pete Moorhouse and Catriona Gill

1. Children's Picture Books

Stimulating children's block work with a selection of children's picture books is an essential component to having a vibrant block area in the classroom.

Watching children carefully and listening to what they are talking about/ interested in is the best way to know what books will further inspire them in their work with materials.

Having a rotating selection of both fiction and non-fiction books is important and will feed children with a primary experience of "research": where do I go to find out more information about how things work and to answer my questions?

Here are just a few suggestions, I know your children will help to prime the pump for books that will work best in your classrooms.

- Spirals, Curves, Fanshapes and Lines, Tana Hoban
- Cubes, Cones, Cylinders and Spheres, Tana Hoban
- Over, Under, Through, Tana Hoban
- The House that Jack Built, Simms Taback
- How a House is Built, Gail Gibbons
- On the Go, Ann Morris
- Hard Hat Area, Susan Roth
- Block City, Robert Louis Stevenson
- From Mud to House, Bertram T. Knight
- My Painted House, My Friendly Chicken, Maya Angelou
- Subway, Anastasia Suen
- Sky Scrape, City Scape, Jane Yolen
- My Street's a Morning Cool Street, Ianthe Thomas
- Changes, Changes, Pat Hutchins
- Building a House, Byron Barton
- Home in the Sky, Jeannie Baker
- In the Attic, Hiawyn Oram
- Next Stop Grand Central,, Maira Kalman
- Wow! City! Robert Neubecker
- Black Cat, Christopher Myers
- A Very Special House, Ruth Krauss
- The Big Orange Splot, Daniel Pinkwater

- Joseph's Overcoat, Simms Taback
- Going to a Restaurant, Melinda Beth Radabaugh
- The Little Sailboat, Lois Lenski
- Cowboy Small, Lois Lenski
- The Little Airplane, Lois Lenski
- The Little Farm, Lois Lenski
- The Little Fire Engine, Lois Lenski
- Will Gets a Haircut, Olof Landstrom, Lena Landstrom
- The Fire Station, Robert Munsch
- The Paper Crane, Molly Bang
- When I Build with Blocks, Niki Alling
- Iggy Peck Architect, Andrea Beaty
- Arches to Zigzags: An Architecture ABC, Michael J. Crosbie and Steve and Kit Rosenthal

2. Book List for Teachers

- I Learn From Children, Caroline Pratt
- The Block Book, edited by Elisabeth S. Hirsch
- Experimenting with the World, Harriet Cuffaro
- Learning from Children, *The Life and Legacy of Caroline Pratt*, Mary E. Hauser
- Out of the classroom and into the World, Salvatore Vascellaro
- Through the Passageway, the Education of a Teacher at City and Country School, Jane Llewellyn Smith
- Experience and Education, John Dewey
- Midwives of Progressive Education: The Bureau of Educational Experiments 1916-1919, Jeroen Staring
- A Child's Work, *The Importance of Fantasy Play*, Vivian Gussin Paley
- The Learning Child, Dorothy H. Cohen
- Froebel Trust Pamphlet Series: Froebel's gifts and block play today, Jane Whinnett MBE
- Froebel Trust Pamphlet Series: The wonder of woodwork, Pete Moorhouse
- Learning Through Woodwork: Introducing Creative Woodwork in the Early Years, Pete Moorhouse
- The art of block building. New York: The John Day Company, Johnson, H. (1933).
- Exploring learning: Young children and Blockplay. London: P. Chapman, Gura, P. and Bruce, T. (1992).
- *#Blocks Rock: Froebelian Block Play in the Twenty-First Century* in Bruce, T., Nishida, Y., Powell, S., Wasmuth, H., & Whinnett, J. (Eds.). The Bloomsbury Handbook to Friedrich Froebel. Bloomsbury Academic, Gill, C. (2023).

3. Films, webinars and other useful resources:

- A Celebration of Blocks:
<https://www.froebel.org.uk/training/films/a-celebration-of-blocks>
- The Wonder of Woodwork:
<https://www.froebel.org.uk/training/films/the-wonder-of-woodwork>
- Wakelet - Being Me Through Block Play:
[Being Me through Block Play](#)
- Community Playthings: Foundations of Block Play:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRInvg7tb2k&t=1474s>
- Early Education Block Play:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mv57f8NWCgM&t=57s>
- Blocks Program:
[2023 C&C Blocks Program 060823_v1.mp4](#)

4. Set of Mini Unit Blocks

<https://www.communityplaythings.co.uk/products/play/block-play/unit-blocks/mini-unit-blocks?v=G481>

