

## What are construction toys?

To support a child with a physical disability in accessing toys consider....

- .... marking out a specific area to play to ensure sufficient space and safety
- .... supportive seating whether this be an optimum sitting position on the floor or a specific piece of equipment to sit on at a table top. Vary the position of play e.g. standing / sitting / kneeling position
- .... placing trays on a shallow tray with a lining of non-slip matting to avoid losing toys on the floor
- .... using a variety of sizes and textures of bricks / blocks to develop fine motor skills



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# Construction Toys

Information and advice for schools and settings



Advisory Teaching Service  
C&L / SEMH / PD Team



## What are construction toys?

Whilst there are certain toys that are specifically for children with physical disabilities, much of the time families and professionals will find that many of the toys that can be found in Early Years Settings are equally suitable. This is particularly true of the vast array of Construction Toys available.

In their simplest form, such toys are a collection of separate pieces that are connected together to create models.

### Physical Development

Construction Toys enable learning as the child's body and brain develop a better ability to learn, find out about themselves, their abilities and interests and the contribution they can make.

They also expand the development of small muscle groups within the hand increasing hand strength, flexibility, spatial awareness, hand eye co-ordination which in turn encourages more detailed and precise control.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Using Construction Toys aids the development of co-operation and sharing skills as your child plays. They also support a child to learn to build and maintain important relationships with friends, carers and family members.



### Communication, Language & Literacy

Construction Toys encourage broader knowledge and the skills to enable children to communicate ideas through the use of logical thinking skills with adults and peers, children increase their language skills.

### Creative Development

Providing a variety of construction toys will promote confidence, independence and development of imagination as your child learns to make choices and control his / her action. They also extend the child's endurance, mental agility and ingenuity.

### Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Such toys expand the child's understanding of the people and the place in their lives, learn about the environment and develop their sense of community.

