

# Foam Block Building

## Best for Ages

1+

## Workspace

Waterproof surface

## Is electricity required?

No

## Description

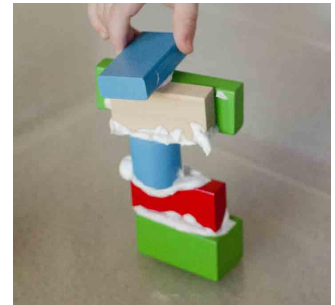
Working with bath foam and foam blocks is a great way to express creativity, explore shapes and math while having a blast engaging our senses! Combining these materials allows children to build up, out and even sideways. Let's see what you can do!

## Materials

- Bath/soap foam
- Waterproof container: plastic storage container, sink, bathtub, tray
- Blocks: foam or wooden blocks
- Additional optional materials: figurines, necklaces, feathers, toy vehicles, fabric, tulle, scooping and dumping tools
- Water and towel for clean up

## What to Do

1. Gather your supplies. Prepare the container by placing on a flat surface that gives easy access to the depth of the container. Bathtubs and sinks are great for this activity.
2. Have a water source and towel ready for quick cleanup.
3. Place the blocks within easy reach of your child in the container. Add some bath foam in, on, or around the blocks.
4. Typically kids will have a good idea of how to start exploring so let them explore the materials freely. Offer modest suggestions or model how to play with the blocks and foam, if needed.
5. Feel free to dive in and play yourself! Modeling play behaviors and taking time to narrate the names of shapes and colors in addition to directions such as over, on top, next to, and below is a great way to develop language skills.
6. When playtime is over, engage your child to assist with rinsing the play items with water. Set aside to dry.



## Concepts Explored

- Critical Thinking Skills
- Spatial Awareness
- Fine Motor Skills

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## Troubleshooting Tips

- Blocks not staying up? Add more foam or rearrange the way the blocks are stacked.
- Foam all over your hands? It's okay to get messy with the foamy soap. Everything will be cleaner than when we started!
- Want to build it higher? Try adding materials like fabric to help get more grip on the blocks. Adding supportive structures like pencils or chopsticks can help a tower not topple.



Which materials are easier or harder to build with the bath foam?

What happens to the foam over time?

What other ways can we utilize these materials?

## What is Happening?

- When we work with blocks we often have to forward plan what we are building. Thinking of ways and planning future moves to make a pile of blocks into a house helps develop our **critical thinking** and **problem solving skills**.
- **Spatial awareness** is knowing where your body is in space in relation to objects. This activity helps develop this cognitive skill by placing and responding to the blocks as they change where they are in relation to your body.
- This activity helps to develop **fine motor skills** which is the coordination of small muscles in your wrist and hands. These small muscles are the same muscles we use for writing and drawing. Early learners are developing fine motor skills as they grasp and move the blocks.

## Taking it Forward

- If you like this activity, you'll also like these Amazeum You activities:
  - [Build a Bridge](#)
  - [Playdough](#)
- Learning more about concepts covered in this activity at your local library:
  - *Iggly Peck: Architect* by Andrea Beaty
  - *Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis