

GAMES, BLOCKS, PUZZLES

Blocks have been a favorite of children the world over forever, and nothing else has been so conducive in leading the child to the valuable long periods of concentration, creativity, and happiness. They can be made from simple stones, clay bricks, pieces of

tree branches, or polished hardwoods. The attraction is that the imagination of the child is set free to create relationships between these physical objects, and to explore them endlessly.

Many mathematical and geometric relationships and architectural concepts are discovered, and physics principles are experienced as the structure gets too tall or too heavy. The child can also work out personal problems by playacting with blocks,



TRADITIONAL BUILDING BLOCKS

In choosing work that will engage a child in creative activity for long periods of time, building blocks win hands down. As far as planning, focus, and concentration, there has never been a toy in our house that has engaged a child for longer periods of time in constructive activity. Blocks are probably the most important creative toys for young children. Through block play a child learns about physics—the relationship between weight, balance, and stability. The child improves physical coordination and eye-hand control, and learns about geometric plane and solid forms. Combined with the use of little human figures and animal models, blocks are extremely good for the imagination and the processing of everyday events and emotions.

These highest-quality blocks are made of kiln-dried northern hard maple (20% stronger than soft maple). Each block is finely sanded, all edges beveled and corners safely rounded. They are based on the traditional unit of 2.75" x 5.5" x 1.25."

The *Individual Set* contains 45 pieces, 14 shapes, and weighs 16 pounds. The *Starter Set* contains 86 pieces in 14 shapes and weighs 50 pounds.

The *Intermediate Set* contains 170 pieces in 21 shapes and weighs 87 pounds.

The blocks are specially made and can take up a month to receive. Price includes the extra shipping costs on heavy items. (top blocks are in *cupboard*, bottom in *cart*)

DT259 Blocks, Individual Set (45 pcs) \$130.00

DT264 Blocks, Starter Set (86 pcs) \$270.00

DT265 Blocks Intermediate Set (170 pcs) \$555.00



BLOCK STORAGE CUPBOARD & CART

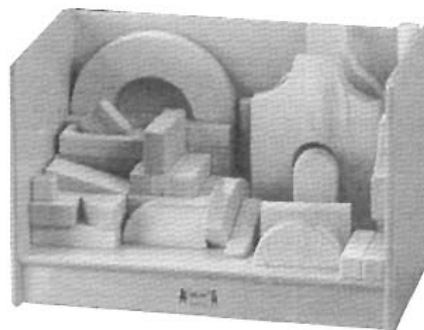
We love watching the patterns our grandson makes as he puts his blocks away in this cart, in a different way each time. This lengthens the time a child will spend concentrating on building work. For the classroom we recommend the above *block cupboard*, and for the home, the *block cart*.

Both units are caster-mounted and can easily be moved by the child so that she can build with the blocks wherever in the home or classroom it suits her. The *block cupboard* enables the child to sort blocks by size and shape.

The *block cart* is 24" wide x 15" deep x 16.5" tall. The *block cupboard* is 24" wide x 15" deep x 35" tall. Both are made of high quality birch plywood with long-lasting finish and smoothly-sanded edges. Just like the blocks these storage units can take up a month to receive. Price includes the extra shipping costs on heavy items.

DT358 Block Cupboard \$290.00

DT045 Block Cart \$133.00



KEVA ARCHITECTURE PLANKS

This simple construction system provides a unique building experience that children instinctively know how to use.

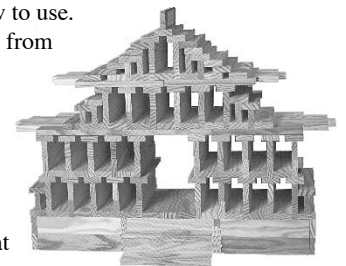
Keva enthusiasts range from toddlers to architects, everyone building at his or her own skill level.

Keva planks are perfectly cut, identical construction blocks that stack with surprising stability; narrow towers can reach all the way to the ceiling. This is possible because of the simplicity and precision cut of the pieces. The single module, the *plank*, is long and thin—4.25" x 1" x .25", and can create an unlimited number of structures: bridges, walls, domes, houses, roofs and figures.

This type of visualizing, building, and sculpting, helps to develop the child's manipulative skills, sense of balance, symmetry and beauty, concentration and creative spirit. A manual is included. The *Standard Set* comes in a sturdy cardboard box and contains 200 Maple wooden planks and the 16-page booklet. Made in the USA.

DT300

\$65.00



animal models and little people. In our experience, next to doing real family work, playing with blocks has been one of the most important toys to give the young child.

PUZZLES

Puzzles provide visual discrimination practice as the child figures out exactly how the elements fit together visually,

and eye-hand control as the pieces are fitted together. They teach the child that work/play is not only open-ended but can have a beautiful and logical structure. They more easily give practice in the beginning and ending of an activity and the satisfaction of completion. The progression of puzzles is first 1, 2, or 3 piece knobbed puzzles (found in *Joyful Child, Michael Olaf's Essential*

Montessori for Birth to Three), then multiple-piece knobbed puzzles, simple jigsaw puzzles in frames with gradually increasing numbers of pieces, then cube puzzles and regular cardboard jigsaw puzzles.

Just as a child is eager to know the exact techniques for using a kitchen or woodworking tool, a gardening tool, or the technique of playing a musical

RECTANGULAR PRISMS IN TRAYS

These are very beautiful blocks enjoyed by adults as well as children. Build them in the sunlight where the transparent real reflective prisms will add rainbows to block play. Each rectangular prism is 1.75" tall, made of either natural wood, painted in primary or secondary colors, or transparent prisms that can also be used to collect sunlight and make rainbows.

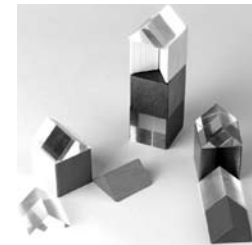
The *spectra* set comes in a long, narrow, natural wood tray 11.4" x 2.24" and contains 6 hardwood prisms (natural finish), 12 hardwood prisms (in 6 colors, 2 each of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple), and 6 clear acrylic prisms. (24 pieces + tray)

The *prismatic* set comes in a 8.5" square natural wood box and contains 30 hardwood prisms (natural finish), 36 hardwood prisms (in 6 colors), and 6 clear acrylic prisms (72 pieces + tray).

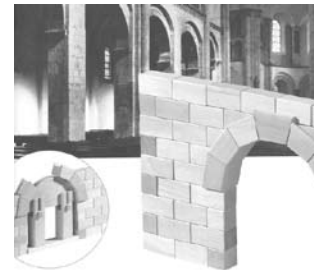
DV012 Spectra Prisms \$31.00
DV090 Prismatic Prisms \$55.00



spectra



prismatic



ROMAN ARCH

This is a brand new adaptation of the *arch* material that has forever been in the Montessori 3-6 class. Using the same principles as the Romans the

child builds the arch over the arch support that is removed after the keystone has been placed in the middle of the top of the arch, and the wooden walls are completed.

This shows the principle of that magical keystone that holds the arch in place supporting the weight above it. There are 144 pieces, made of hardwood.

DV30 \$45.00

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY BLOCKS

There is nothing like building with blocks to create structures of different kinds to open our eyes to the styles of buildings we see in magazines, books, and in real life. These sets contain hardwood blocks, of eastern United States maple, in shapes which enable the child to recreate architectural wonders of the world.

The *Mayan Pyramid Set* exemplifies the civilization of Mexico, Guatemala and Belize 1500 years ago. There are 80 pieces in 14 shapes.

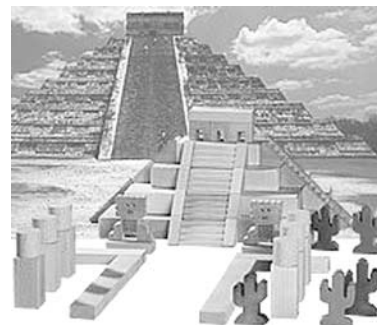
The *Egyptian Pyramid Set* is built in layers so one can see the chambers inside. There are 67 pieces in 18 shapes.

The *Middle Eastern Set* contains the onion domes which give the special look of the 7th through 16th centuries in Persia, Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East. There are 50 pieces in 13 shapes.

Finally, the *USA Capitol Set* recreates the style and grandeur of the state capitols and municipal buildings of many states, as well as the United States Capitol. There are 70 pieces in 25 shapes. Directions are included with the Egyptian Pyramid and Capitol Set because these two are built in layers. The others can easily be constructed by looking at the picture on the box (which we recommend cutting out and saving).

The illustrations on this page show the models assembled in front of an example of the original structure.

DT752 Mayan Pyramid Block Set \$45.00
DT750 Egyptian Pyramid Block Set \$45.00
DT754 Middle Eastern Set Block Set \$32.00
DT756 USA Capitol Set Block Set \$45.00



instrument, she wants to know the exact ways to use "puzzle toys." We would be doing a child a disservice if we allowed her to use anything—blocks, a violin bow, a hand mixer—as a hammer, for example. This does *not* stifle creativity, but facilitates it!

Playing with open-ended toys, such as dolls, blocks, art materials, and so forth, is made infinitely richer by the

child's knowledge of exact techniques in handling any toys or materials.

Through the use of good materials the child learns how to think, to concentrate, to follow a thought and a cycle of activity, and to solve problems. She learns to bring the use of her body and especially her hands under the control of her will, to be self-disciplined. This is the foundation for the creativity of

a professional artist or composer, and for the creativity of a child at any age.

GAMES

Thinking games such as chess hold a fascination for children. Our children and grandchildren loved learning the names of the pieces, and the way they could move, at a very early age. Competition did not enter into it, just the fun of



ARCOBALENO BLOCK PUZZLE

Arcobaleno is a puzzle and a construction toy rolled into one. Children can assemble the arches to

construct a circular puzzle and can stretch their imaginations to create bridges, tunnels, bowls, domes, towers, corrals, spiral houses, and fascinating sculptural forms.

The beautiful wooden forms of natural wood, and bright rainbow colors, are made in Vermont from the finest maple and birch hardwood to last years. Every piece is sanded and finished for beauty and pleasure in handling. *Arcobaleno* is Spanish for *rainbow*. This is more often found in museum stores than toy stores. The set contains twelve arches in six different colors and sizes, and a hardwood 9.5" tray.

DT19 \$50.00



Swiss Animal Puzzle

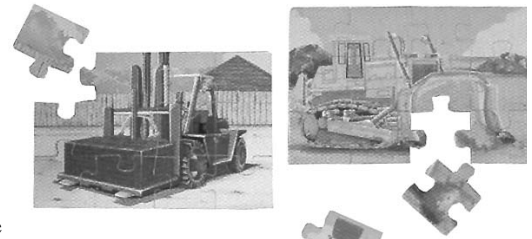
JIGSAW PUZZLES IN A BOX

Each box contains four 12-piece wooden jigsaw puzzles which fit in the four separate sections of the box. Each of the pieces is coded on the back so the child can, at first, use this as a sorting exercise, and learn how to carefully close the sliding lid.

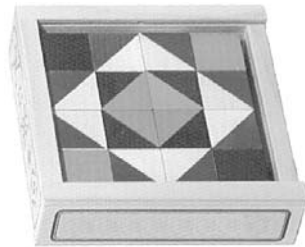
There are two subjects: construction vehicles, and vehicles (fire engine, airplane, school bus, and train engine). The pictures are brightly colored and realistic, laminated to the puzzle pieces.

The child should be shown how to carefully take apart the puzzle pieces. The box is 7.5" x 5.5" x 2.5."

DT239 Construction Vehicles Puzzles, Set/4 \$12.50
DT244 Vehicles Puzzles, Set/4 \$12.50



Construction Vehicles Puzzle



Swiss Mosaic Puzzle

CUBES EN BOIS PUZZLES

These absolutely lovely traditional Swiss *cubes en bois* (cubes in a box) have been a favorite gift for children for many years. Each set of 1" wooden painted cubes comes in a pinewood box with a sliding plexiglass lid, and with directions.

The animal cube puzzle comes in a rectangular wooden box, 5" x 3.75" x 1.75", and contains 6 cubes which can be put together to create six different animals. Pictures of a dog, duck, owl, parrot, fish, and a cat . . . silkscreened onto a plain wooden background.

With the mosaic puzzle a child can create an endless variety of geometric designs, in and outside of the box. The colors are blue, yellow, red, and green. The wooden box is 5" x 5" x 1.5".

DT476 Swiss Animal Puzzle \$54.00
DT496 Swiss Mosaic Puzzle \$58.00



THINK & MATCH PUZZLES

Here is a set of twenty simple 2-piece puzzles which inspire children to use logic—paint goes with paintbrush, dustpan with broom, pencils with pencil sharpener, feet with socks, etc. Only the correct pieces will fit together so the "control of error" is in the material. Aside from a simple puzzle they can be used as a concentration game with two or more children. Place all pieces upside down and take turns turning over two pieces at a time—trying to remember where the matching pairs are. Each two-piece, heavy cardboard, puzzle is 5.75" x 2.5".

DT650 \$13.00

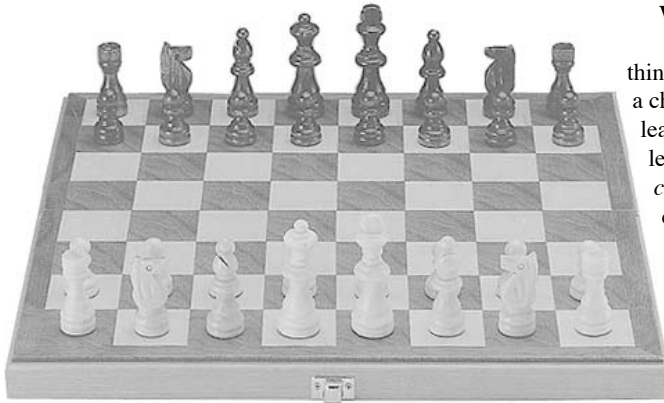
moving the little figures and trying to remember which one could do what.

Cooperative games teach children to work together, to help each other, to consider the good of the other person or the group as well as oneself, instead of fostering competition and winning. Competitive play cause players to feel isolated or left out. The action is secretive and can result in hard feelings or

arguments. The adult can help the child turn other toys and games into this kind of activity. In environments where children work and play independently and cooperatively, they learn the most valuable kind of socialization—helping each other. We consider this true socialization and preparation for positive interaction throughout life.

AN INTRODUCTION TO LATER ACADEMIC STUDIES

In the following pages you will find ideas for introducing the child to the world. We do not believe in pushing a child, but we believe strongly in providing an environment rich in all areas of learning so that the child can choose, from his own intuition, what he is ready to learn. Young children show an amazing interest in a



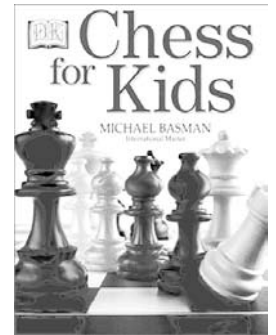
WOODEN CHESS SET AND BOX, *CHESS FOR KIDS* BOOK

Chess has been shown to increase many skills in children; thinking ahead, thinking in many directions at once, patience, manners, and so on. And it is a game a child can enjoy with parents. Parents, however, must learn to adapt the stages of learning chess to the stages of the development of the child. First children love learning the names of the interesting wooden pieces—*king, queen, bishop, knight, castle* (or *rook*), and *pawn*. We started teaching our children and grandchildren the names when they were under three, the stage of wanting to learn thousands of names of objects in the environment.

Later we allowed a LOT of leeway in teaching chess to the child, emphasizing fun, and following the child. We might just play a "pawn game" or a "castle and king" game, the goal being to take turn moving pieces, to practice the

rules of each, to get across the board. There is no need to win or lose, and the adult can adapt and enjoy this new way of looking at chess with the child. The chess board/case is 15" square, the king 3" tall. Always looking for chess books for children, this is the best available right now. Excellent pictures of chess pieces with names, and information enough for all ages. Softcover, 45 page, color, 8.5" x 11".

DT525 Chess Set \$39.00
DT526 Chess for Kids \$6.99



TRADITIONAL GAMES FOR ALL AGES

More games for the parents to share with their children, and recall stories of their childhood—a child's favorite stories.

There are very good reasons why all of the games here have stood the test of time. There are variations in many different countries.

Recently when I was in Thailand

I was taught a game just like jacks only with small rocks. Instead of bouncing a ball we threw one of the rocks up in the air and then scooped up the ten thrown rocks, one at a time, then two at a time, and so forth, before catching the first rock that had been thrown in their air.

It made me realize how important the skills are of these old favorites.

What we like about this particular selection is the quality of the game pieces, the containers for each, and the directions that are included. The *Tiddly Winks*, *Marbles*, *Hopscotch*, and *Jacks* all come in a sturdy metal box 5" x 3.5" x 1.75", and the 10", colored wooden *Pick-up Sticks* come in a brightly colored cloth bag. Different physical and mental skills are developed with each game.

DT591 Tiddly Winks Game \$10.00
DT593 Marbles Game \$10.00
DT595 Hopscotch Game \$10.00
DT594 Jacks Game \$10.00
DT592 Pick-up Sticks Game \$8.00



FLOOR PUZZLE

THE FARM

When assembled this floor puzzle is 2 x 3 feet, providing a lot of large muscle movement for the child, as well as visual perception and thinking. In the attractive box with a cord handle there are 24 jumbo pieces.

The stylized contemporary art picture of the completed puzzle is shown on the side of the box so that the child can stand the box up as a guide while assembling the puzzles. The box is 7.5" x 5.5" x 2.5."

DT601 \$17.00

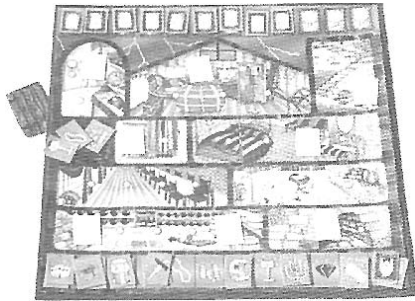
wide range of subjects.

A rich environment, full of interesting activities having to do with music, art, history, geography, science, language, and math, inspires curiosity, fosters broad interests, and extends the child's experience. Observations of child in such homes and schools have taught us to focus on the preparation of an early environment, rather than

trying to "teach." This allows the child to choose and to teach herself. The adult's challenge is to be sure that the environment offers all the key experiences necessary for laying this foundation.

Rather than relying on verbal lessons given by an adult, or computers and TV, or videos (or other examples of passive learning), we provide the child with real

life activities from which she will really learn and remember what she learns. We can, with planning, create an environment that is rich in experiments, games, materials, and books which the child can select as an interest arises, providing valuable experiences of the hand and mind working together for an intelligent purpose.



THE SECRET DOOR, CO-OP GAME

The Secret Door is a cooperative *mystery* game. Some valuables have been stolen and the players, together, search through the mansion for clues to find them. They must be found before midnight or the thieves may slip away with all the booty. Children really enjoy figuring out what is behind the door. And because of the cooperative principle, everyone is part of a team that discusses ideas and shares strategies. Each game is different, exciting and tricky. Young children are on an equal footing with adults in this game. Contents: Full color 12" x 12" inch board, rules, clock cards, set of valuables. For 1-8 players ages 4 or 5 and up.

ER04 \$17.00

SLEEPING GRUMP, CO-OP GAME

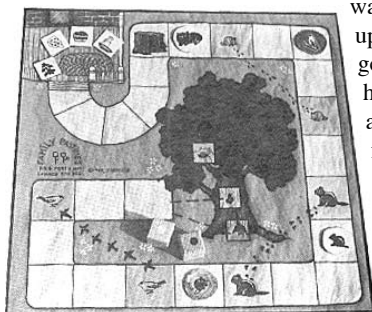
A cooperative game. The grump has taken all the Village Treasures. Just as in the story of Jack in the Bean Stalk, we climb while he sleeps to try to get them back—working together. A favorite for many years. Game board, game pieces. For 2-4+ players, ages 3+.

DT075 \$17.00

MAX, CO-OP GAME

A cooperative game. Parents delight in the cooperative way children are called upon to use logic in getting the little creatures home and safe from the cat, and in getting the cat "Max" fed. Game board, game pieces. For 2-8 players, ages 4+.

DT070 \$17.00



FUNNY FACE, CO-OP GAME

A cooperative game. Although most people enjoy playing all of these cooperative games, this one is perhaps the adult favorite. It contains command cards with actions for the players to read and mime as they help each other get ready for the "party." It is a hilarious introduction to drama. Note: This game is also a very good verb-discovery game. Game board, game pieces. For 3-10+ players, ages 3+.

DT29 \$17.00

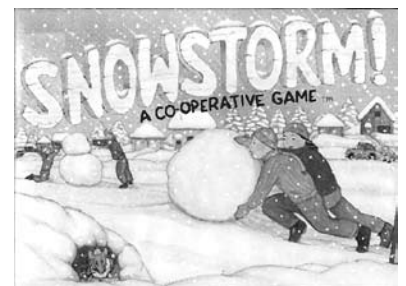


HARVEST TIME, CO-OP GAME

A cooperative game. First each player *plants* a garden by placing little game pieces on the vegetable pictures. Then they take turns rolling the die to "harvest" the crop. A white roll brings a piece of winter and the purpose of the game is for everyone to get their crops in before winter comes. This only happens when the players help each other!

This was the first cooperative game we ever played and it gave me chills—it felt so good to be playing a game for the good of all instead of being in competition. 12" square board and game pieces. Ages 3+, 1-4 players.

DT33 \$17.00



SNOWSTORM, CO-OP GAME

A cooperative game. A winter storm hits a city. Granny & grandpa, uncle & aunt, mom & dad, and our best friend's family have things to do, places to go, errands to run. The goal is to help everyone finish them before the storm hits. Skills of communication, decision-making, and creative thinking are nurtured. For 1-12 players, age 4+. 12" Game board, rules, game pieces.

DT030 \$17.00

NOTE: There are more Co-op Games on page 62.