

A PROGRAM OF UNITED DISABILITY SERVICES



TOY & RESOURCE CENTER **BUILDING BLOCKS**

ONE ITEM ONE SITE ONE IDEA

Let's spend a little time *dwelling* on a toy that is an excellent tool for helping children explore their creativity, develop imagination and advance their skill set in other areas of learning (e.g. communication, cognition). Can you guess what it is? You probably nailed it—**dollhouses!**

This a-*door*-able, open-ended toy allows kids to manipulate small pieces of furniture to see how everything fits together, which helps build dexterity and eye-hand coordination. As they maneuver things around, they are working on spatial relationships, a skill that may prove beneficial for STEAM subjects down the road (engineering = **E**).

Through categorization we teach children a system for organizing information. Use the furniture and characters in a dollhouse to create that sense of order by asking questions like, "What three items can be found in a kitchen?"

Sharpen problem-solving skills using this miniature world by asking, "Will this bed fit through that doorway?" or "Can the doll ride his/her bike down the stairs?" If children are encountering any *doll*-emmas, have them act out scenarios and come up with solutions to deal with social conflicts. Doing this may help build a child's ability to manage and express emotions along with recognizing how those emotions may impact others. Whether the toys used in the dollhouse are dolls, animals or other characters, they can recreate experiences that solidify a child's understanding of the world around them!



ONE SITE

Everyone will have a *doll-y* good time on this site finding additional ideas for using a dollhouse to enhance multiple areas of development.

<https://bit.ly/3J54AsQ>

ONE IDEA

DIY Dollhouses

Let creativity *floor-ish* through play with this popular toy! Check out the site below for DIY dollhouse ideas using shoeboxes, milk cartons and more! Ask little ones to put on their thinking caps to come up with unique ideas for how common items can be transformed for use in their house! For example, a sponge can become a great trampoline, a paper towel role turns into a tunnel, a cotton ball serves as a perfect pillow, and milk carton caps make great chairs. Use colored tape to create parking spaces . . . as they pick and pull the tape, fine motor skills are being developed. Kids will have so much fun—it will be a roof raising experience!

<https://bit.ly/4cFfPWt>



Photo credit: artsycraftsymom.com



Why buy toys when you can borrow them? United Disability Services' toy lending library loans developmental toys and resource materials to its members. Stop by and see us!

UDS ♦ 701 S. Main St., Akron, OH 44311 ♦ 330-762-9755
www.udsakron.org

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