Children’s Books about Buildings and Constructions of All Sorts

A classic introduction to number systems and symmetry as a town is born.

In simple words and pictures, this book follows each step of building a house, focusing on the workers’ specialties and house components such as wiring, pipes, etc.

A rhyming book about a passionate – and very creative – young architect and builder.

Uses rhymes and color photographs to introduce children to different architectural elements. Each rhyme ends with a question to spark children’s thinking and encourage their exploration.

Children find numerals hidden on each page as the stories of a high-rise increase one by one.

A book of brilliant skyscraper photographs.

Illustrations of how a house is built, beginning to end, with descriptions about how architects, surveyors, heavy equipment operators, carpenters, plumbers, and landscapers work together. Also New Road by Gibbons.

Harris, Nicholas. A Year at a Construction Site. First Avenue Editions, 2009.
Watch the seasons change, a building progressing towards completion.

Clear photographs and simple text, with picture dictionary of relevant words.
A rhythmic profusion of different homes.

A little wooden couple endure changes when their building block house catches fire.

Twelve different animal builders and the purposes behind their building designs.

Rhyming tale about a boy as he watches a building go up in his neighborhood. Includes construction vehicles.

A multicultural version of The Three Little Pigs, with houses made of tumbleweed, saguaro rib, and adobe, with Native American and Latino characters.

Detailed illustrations of bridges, tunnels, dams and skyscrapers.  
Other Macauley books that address building design, materials, and challenges: Pyramid, Mill, Castle, Cathedral, City, Underground, and Unbuilding.

Introduces houses from around the world, showing why they differ.

A classic about the strengths and weaknesses of different building materials.

Children use creativity to create a town out of rocks, boxes, and desert glass.

Full-color survey of interesting homes around the world.

The photographs of treehouses in this book will captivate both children and their parents.
*A construction story-based alphabet book, with many aspects of building included.*

*In this classic poem, a small boy constructs a city with blocks.*

*Color photos of houses, towers, and their components – windows, doors, ceilings, etc. Provides information about how structures are designed and built. Other relevant titles in this series include Pyramid, Castle, and Force and Motion.*
Resources for Block Play Ideas and Inspiration

Websites:

www.pbs.org/wgbh/buildingbig

_Funded by the National Science Foundation, this site is a companion to the David Macauley books and videos. Contains photos of structures from all over the world, with information about their history, who built them, and the science and engineering underlying their design and construction._

www.emporis.com/en

_This is the world’s largest free-to-use website of built structures in thousands of cities all over the world._
Resources for Block Play Ideas and Inspiration

Resources for Parents, Caregivers and Early Learning Professionals:


Viewed as a more detailed, extended Teaching Numeracy, Language, and Literacy with Blocks by Abigail Newburger and Elizabeth Vaughan.


Often called the best existing book about block play, this book describes in detail the stages of block play development and block play as a way to learn science, math, literacy, and “practice” art.


Clear description of what children learn through block play, with building activities and challenges for all stages of development.


This book divides block-building development in young children into stages, then offers specific suggestions for parents and other adults who want to facilitate children’s learning through block play.


In addition to the uses and value of block play for children, this book offers a historical overview of the importance of building with blocks to children’s development, covering 200 years.


Focusing on combinations of basic building components, then on detailed “blueprints” for 18 structures, this inspirational book about block-building is a classic.