



Volunteering Opportunity!

Do you love to build, discover, and play with blocks?
Do you enjoy interacting with children and families?

These 1 to 2-hour events will be hosted around the area at many different locations. Each event requires many volunteers to come and play with blocks. It's that simple.

How does this work? Once you are a trained Play Assistant, you will be placed into our pool of volunteers. As block parties are scheduled, you will be contacted to check your calendar of availability and sign up for the events that work into your schedule. There will be daytime, evening, and weekend block parties for you to volunteer at!

Qualifications: Age 16 or older (or with an adult), attendance at a 20 to 25-minute block training, prior to the start of the event for new play assistants and a willing attitude and interest in engaging with families and children while playing with blocks.

*To see when our next Block Parties are, check our website:
www.doorcountyparents.com/block-party*



If you would like to sign up as a volunteer:
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Play Assistant Hints and Tips



1. **Play more on the floor with the children.** Watch the children as they build before adding gentle suggestions to help the play develop.
2. **Tell the children what they can do with blocks rather than what they can't do.** "The blocks stay on the table." "Take apart your tower with your hands." "The blocks are for building."
3. **TALK, TALK, TALK.** Talk about what your child is doing. Talk about what you are doing. Describe what you see. Use interesting vocabulary.
4. **Use open-ended questions to allow a child to explain a situation.** "Tell me about your building..." "What do you think the people are talking about in your house?" These questions encourage your child to think about what they're doing and encourage them to talk about it.
5. **Help children to solve their own problems.** Give general problem solving ideas rather than specific solutions. Suggest, "This is one way to build a gate. Will that work for your project?"
6. **Vary the clean-up routines to involve children in the process:**
 - Give the children a warning that clean-up time is coming. "We can play for 5 minutes and then we'll clean up."
 - Give the child a choice about how he wants to accomplish the task. "Are you going to first put away the long blocks or the short blocks?"
 - Join in with the child and make it a game. "Do you have strong muscles? Show me your muscles when you help pick up the blocks."
 - Sing a cleanup song together.

*"This is the way we pick up our toys,
Pick up our toys
Pick up our toys
This is the way we pick up our toys
before we go to bed."*

