

## School Holiday Activity #1: It's the Brick Float Challenge!

### Here's how it works:

- Have a tub or a basin filled with water.
- Use your large or small size bricks to construct a few models – these can be in any shape or size. No rules apply.
- Now take the models and see if they float!
- You might have to make changes to the model to test out to see if it floats better! Or if it does float, add more bricks on to see if it will float or sink!
- You could even build a bridge for your model to float under.

### Here are some of the skills that your child will learn:

- They will need to listen to the instructions and try things out.
- They will have to experiment and think creatively to find a solution that works.
- They will use their fine motor skills to handle the bricks when they are dry and wet.
- They will have to manage their frustration and learn to persevere until they get it right.
- They might also have to ask for help and communicate with you about what they are doing.

And, the good news is that these are the exact skills that kids need to do well at school! They're learning them by doing a simple, fun school holiday activity without even realising that they are in fact learning at all!

## School Holiday Activity #2: Let's do an Alphabet Build

### Here's how it works:

- Ask your child to choose any letter from the alphabet. If they don't yet know the alphabet, choose a letter for them.
- Place as many toys, bricks and other items as you can around them on the floor or on a table.
- Ask them to re-create the letter of the alphabet from the items to form the shape of the letter.
- When they're done, give them another letter or even a number to try out as they build the shape.

### It's easy to do PLUS it gives your child these skills:

- Social skills as they communicate about what they are doing.
- Listening skills to absorb the instructions you give them.
- Creative skills to think differently as part of designing their alphabet letter.
- Fine motor skills to manipulate the bricks or their chosen objects.
- Perceptual skills to copy the letter or the number and focus and attention to complete their task.

All of these skills sit at the foundation of being successful at school. In fact, your child will rely on these skills all the way through their school career! Fun activities that equal school success - what more could you ask for?!



## School Holiday Activity #3: Identify numbers and letters

### Here are some examples:

- As you ride in the car or go for a walk, look for letters and number signs.
- Play games together to call out the numbers and then add them up or subtract them.
- Can your child read the letters or tell you about the letters he cannot read or understand?
- They can even look for numbers or letters and short words that appear on TV shows. Call them out and spell them out.
- Can you find numbers anywhere? When you start looking, you'll be surprised at how many places they appear.

This type of activity fits into your usual family life. It's easy to do at any time - and what a basket of skills it gives your child without opening a single school workbook.

It also builds their confidence in using numbers and letters so that when they are in the school situation, they feel more ready to take on the classroom challenges.

## School Holiday Activity #4: Create family portraits

### This is a great family or friend activity to do!

1. Spill out onto the floor as many bricks, blocks and other smaller toys as possible.
2. Think of a person in the family that your child could build. You could even have their photo in front of them.
3. Or, if it's not a family member, it could be a book or TV character.
4. Ask your child to create the picture or the person out of the bricks and other objects that they have in front of them.
5. You could extend the activity by building your own one and asking your child to guess who it is.
6. A group of children can build theirs and guess which person or character has been recreated.
7. Ask your child to tell the story of what they built and why it represents that person / character.
8. You can include drawing in the activity as well as playdough or any other resources you have available.

**Time:** It takes about 5 minutes to set up and will give your child at least 20 – 30 minutes of good fun and learning at the same time!

### Here's just some of the skills your child gains by doing this activity:

Social: They learn to share, listen and talk to others.

Cognitive: They visualise and think metaphorically.

Emotional: They reflect on their family and feelings.

Fine motor skills: They handle and manipulate small and larger bricks.

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