

BUILDING
BLOCKS
PRESCHOOL

S.T.R.E.A.M. BLOCKS



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The content in the S.T.R.E.A.M. Blocks provide students with the skills most important for accruing knowledge in the areas of: Science, Technology, Reading and Writing, Engineering, Fine Arts, and Math.

- **Science:** This subject focuses on the way children learn about and experience the world around them.
 - Students examine the natural world through an introduction to the human body, the environment, the seasons and weather, the Earth and other planets, geography and geology, and plants and animals. Students will further extend their knowledge to understand families, school systems, communities, the global world, holidays, and historical figures.
- **Technology:** Students are provided with foundational knowledge about how technology can be used as a tool for learning and documentation.
- **Reading and Writing:** This subject focuses on the development of children's personal and interpersonal communication skills.
 - Students learn how to actively read and write, as well as how to speak and listen in a way that allows them to communicate effectively. In Reading, students are introduced to storybooks and storytelling, including read-aloud books, poems, and rhymes. Students begin to learn basic phonics rules too. Phonics instruction is essential for reading and writing, as students will learn how to recognize and articulate the sounds of letters and words so they can read and write them. Literature will often be used to introduce themes that are integrated into all of the S.T.R.E.A.M. Blocks.
- **Engineering:** Students learn to investigate and innovate by building structures using natural and synthetic materials. Simultaneously, students explore age-appropriate science, technology, engineering, and math concepts.
- **Fine Arts:**
 - **Art:** Students are introduced to various art tools and creative works to help them develop critical thinking skills and a relationship with art.
 - **Music:** Students are exposed to live and recorded music. They sing common children's songs and listen to different genres and styles of music from around the globe. In addition, students learn about tempo, rhythm, beat, repetition, sequencing, and musical notations, as well as the different types of instruments and their corresponding sounds.
 - **Drama and Movement:** Students are introduced to the basics of performing speaking, singing, dancing, and choreography. In Movement, students actively participate in age-appropriate activities that focus on teamwork, sportsmanship, and the development of gross motor skills. Students learn the importance of being physically active, having proper nutrition, hydrating, and taking time to rest and recover.
- **Math:** Students learn basic math concepts, including daily calendar skills, recognizing and writing numbers, patterns, shapes, and sorting. Additionally, students explore problem-solving skills by working on problems that include graphing, quantity and counting, money, and measurement.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Open Play: Students experience playful learning by interacting with their peers and having fun, as well as by choosing what they want to play and how they want to play it.

Nap/Quiet Time: Students have the opportunity to lay down and rest or sleep in their own space. Students who do not wish to sleep are allowed to participate in quiet and calm activities or work on individual skills with the teachers.

Enrichment: The classroom is divided into different S.T.R.E.A.M. centers, which allows students to engage in structured activities. Students have the ability to choose which activity they want to focus on. All activities center on and review skills introduced in the S.T.R.E.A.M. Blocks.

Late Bird: Open playtime during which students participate in playful learning. Students interact with peers and have fun while choosing what they want to play and how they want to play it.

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES

The S.T.R.E.A.M. Block lessons are organized in units with a common theme (plants, animals, community helpers, etc), lasting up to 5 to 15 days. When appropriate, the school organizes a professional visit from a field related to the theme of the unit to demonstrate the materials and concepts the students are currently learning in a new and exciting way to provide further opportunity for a hands-on experience.

MULTI-AGE STRUCTURE

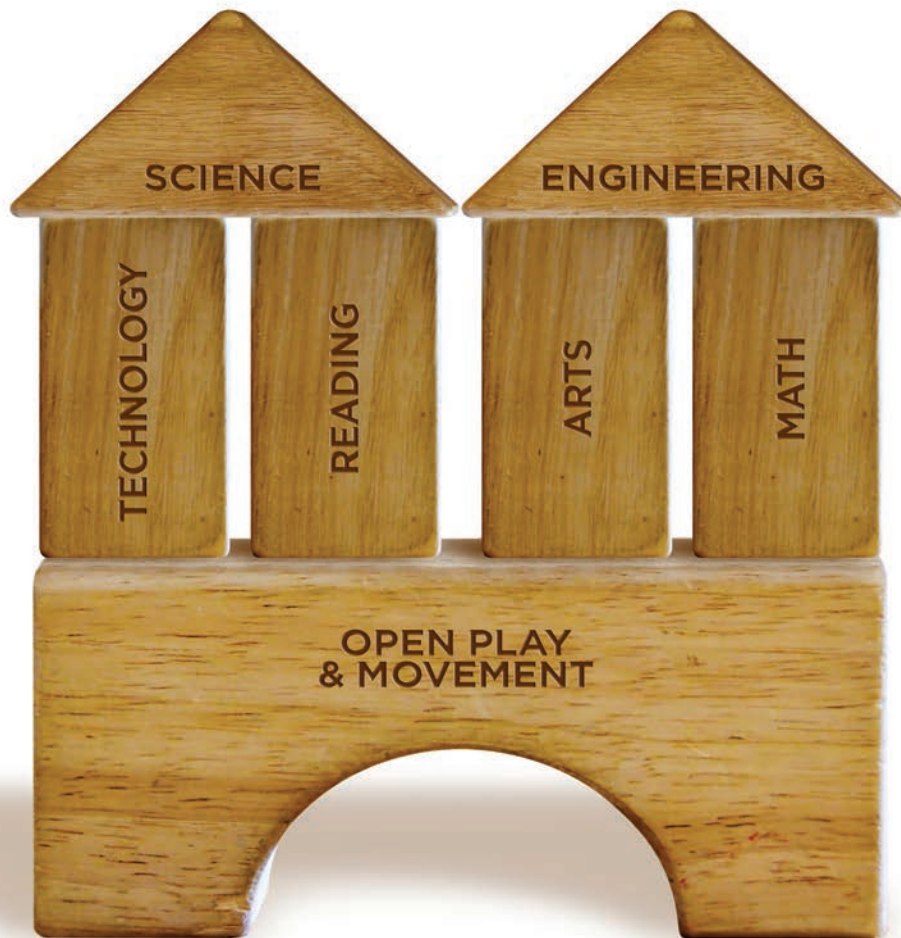
The S.T.R.E.A.M. Blocks of learning have distinct educational goals based on age groups and developmental learning stages. We consider the multi-age structure of our school to be an excellent tool to practice social and communication skills, as well as the opportunity to expose the students to a variety of learning practices- observation, imitation, demonstration, and guidance. The method utilized for instruction depends on the goals and content of the specific part of the lesson unit. In some cases, it is best to organize the instruction in mixed groups to enable learners of all developmental stages. In a mixed group, students' differentiated knowledge supports daily hands-on experiences. Together, they collaborate and share their discoveries, allowing them to build on each other's success and exposure of varied learning practices.

PLAYING IS LEARNING

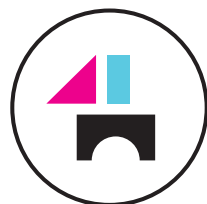
At Building Blocks, students take part in a range of play-based activities including structured activities that integrate The S.T.R.E.A.M. Blocks, Enrichment, and open play. Play and learning are not mutually exclusive. Through play, students learn to develop problem-solving, physical, and social and emotional skills.

THE BLOCKS OF LEARNING

The developmental blocks of learning at Building Blocks Preschool are divided into three stages: Emerging, Discovering, and Foundational. The developmental stages represent a strong learning foundation inspired by S.T.R.E.A.M. Block learning. The S.T.R.E.A.M. Blocks integrate science, technology, reading and writing, engineering, the arts, and math into experiences and discoveries inspired by the world around us. The most essential skill for students is learning to enjoy the acquisition of knowledge while developing a lifelong love of learning.



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