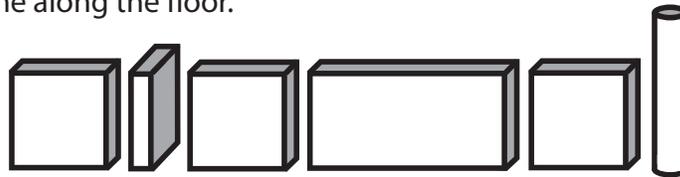


Ready 2 Read! PlaySpace

BASIC BLOCK COMPONENTS

1. ROWS

Typically the first building component constructed by children, a row is a repetition of one or more types of blocks in a line along the floor.



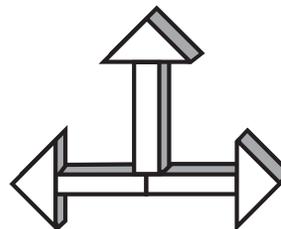
The more types of blocks used in a repeating fashion, the more complex the pattern in the row.



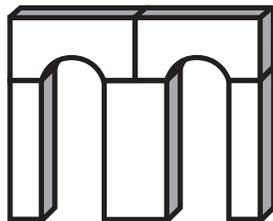
2. GEOMETRIC CONSTRUCTIONS

Geometric constructions are sometimes used as basic building components, and sometimes used to add distinctive style or interesting design to components such as towers, bridges and enclosures.

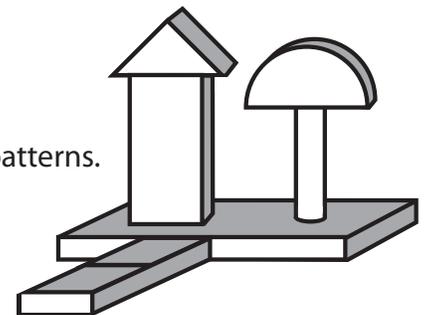
Geometric constructions can be 2-dimensional patterns.



Geometric constructions can be 3-dimensional patterns.



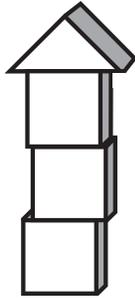
Geometric constructions can be combinations of 2- or 3-dimensional patterns.



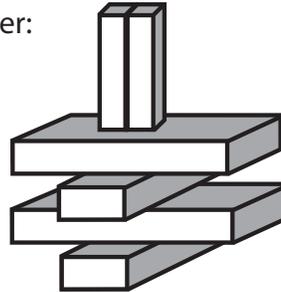
3. STACKS AND TOWERS

A stack is two or more blocks placed one on top of another, up from the floor. As blocks are added in a balanced way, a tower is formed. Complex towers may incorporate many blocks of various sizes and shapes.

A simple stack:



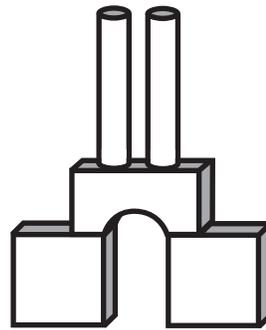
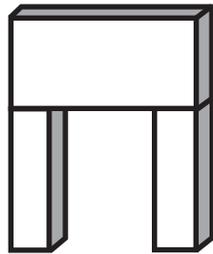
A complex tower:



4. BRIDGES AND PASSAGEWAYS

A simple block bridge or door frame is composed of a horizontal load-bearing block (an arch or beam) supported below by vertical posts (or columns).

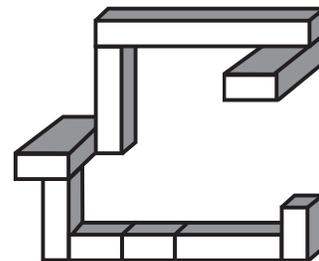
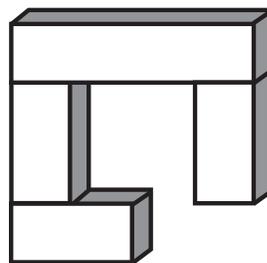
Together, the horizontal and vertical components create an enclosed passageway such as a tunnel or a doorway.



5. ENCLOSURES

Enclosures such as fences and walls are created when open spaces are 'closed' or defined by 'touching' blocks.

Simple, mostly 2-dimensional enclosures, can be made by placing blocks flat on the floor, touching each other.



More complex 3-dimensional spaces are built with touching stacks of blocks or by standing touching blocks on their edges.

Note: A typical block enclosure does not include a roof. By leaving enclosures open at the top, block builders are better able to understand and use the space they created.