



Hello, here is the **Math Vitamin** for the week.

February 2, 2018

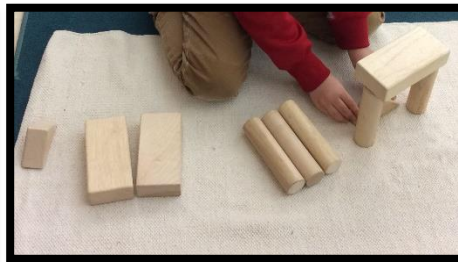
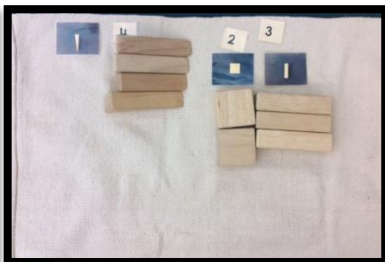
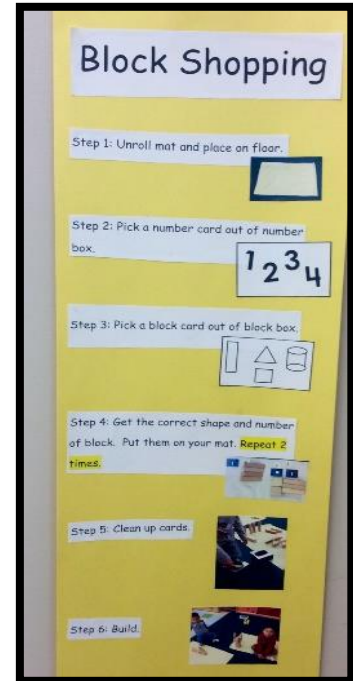
This week's vitamin comes directly from the classroom of Ariel Mayer, SMILE teacher at the Capuano. To encourage math in other areas, we designed a learning experience that would integrate counting and building in the block area. This fun and engaging activity can be modified and extended in numerous ways.

You will need:

- 2 small labeled boxes: 1 for number cards and 1 for blocks cards.
- 2 sets of laminated number cards. Start off with numbers 2-5 and then once everyone has cycled through, expand through 9 (differentiate by placing stickers on the back so children can count).
- Laminated blocks cards (photos of blocks on your block shelf - start with simple shapes).
- Visual chart with step by step instruction (6 steps or less).

Guided Discovery Lesson in the Block Area:

1. "Today I am going to teach you a new way to build in the block area."
2. "First, I am going to roll out my mat."
3. "Next, I am going to choose a number from the number box, see it has a number on it. I got the number 3."
4. "Now, I am going to choose a block card from the block card box. I got a rectangle."
5. "Now, I get to shop from the block shelf. The number card tells me how many, and the shape card tells me the block to choose. So, I need 3 rectangle blocks." Place the block and the cards on the mat.
6. "Ok. So I am going to do this 2 more times." All together you pick 3 number cards and 3 block cards.
7. "Before I build I am going to clean up the cards." Silently return the cards to the correct box.
8. "Let me see what I can build with these blocks." Model building a structure. Model building a second structure with the same blocks
9. "I'm done. I am going to put my blocks back on the block shelf. I will roll up my mat and put in back in the basket."



With the mats and shopping from the shelf, it is best to start with 2 children. Then include more.

Possible Extensions:

- Have children draw what they built, followed by dictated stories.
- Add a mystery block ? card, which offers the child the opportunity to pick a block of their choice.
- Add props such as animals, people and Beautiful Stuff.