SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

Go Go Magnetic Blocks

(Small Muscle Development Kit – EC COE)

Description:	Image:
Go Go Magnetic Blocks are colorful (green, yellow, red, white, black, and blue) magnetic blocks. The 21 blocks come in various shapes and some have faces or wheels. Made of plastic, they are easy for little hands to hold, stack, and assemble.	 Purchasing Information Demo Video

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Need to develop grip and finger strength to use other learning materials such as writing tools.
- Enjoy exploring shapes.
- Like to build things.
- Are working on using both hands to complete an activity.
- Are developing the ability to maintain focus on an activity to complete it.

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity to…

- Practice using both hands together to stack and assemble using blocks.
- Strengthen fine motor skills.
- Engage in building and taking things apart.

Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations • Can be used at home or in school. • Note: magnets only work on specific sides.	**Optional Additional Materials/Supplies** • Cookie sheet **Build It Up** • TBD

Positioning

- Go Go Magnetic Blocks can be used in any position; seated, standing, on the floor, etc.
- Go Go Magnetic Blocks should be placed on a flat surface.

Basic Play/Use

- Open ended exploration.
- Construction of specific shapes.

Extended Play/Use

- Take pictures of various block arrangements and encourage children to match the picture using the blocks.

Play/Use with Others

- Building and stacking with Go Go Magnetic blocks can easily be turned into a group activity, promoting social skills and teamwork. As children work together, they develop communication skills, turn-taking and learn how to collaborate effectively.
- Create single picture cards of the blocks. Children take turns drawing cards, selecting the block pictured, and begin creating block designs with what they have drawn.

Stabilize It

- Blocks are magnetic, so they could be used with a cookie sheet as a stabilizer.

Simplify It

- Reduce the number of blocks initially.
- Introduce the blocks by shape or color.

Contain it

- Contain blocks on a rimmed (magnetic) cookie sheet.

Add Sensory Cues

- Use Go Go Magnetic Blocks on a high contrast color mat.

Communication Support

- Guide possible selections with pointing; use vocabulary such as “push” “pick up”, “put in”, “find (insert names of colors)”.
- Consider visuals to accompany block building activities.

Alternative Uses

- Use to teach names of colors.
- Sort by attributes such as color or shape.

DIY Alternatives

- Assemble a collection of colored cups to stack.

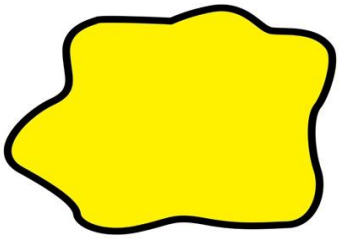
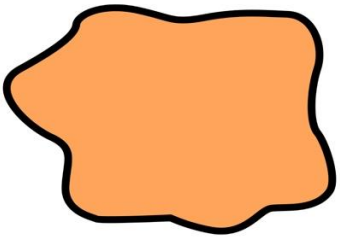
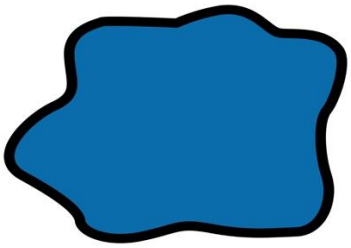
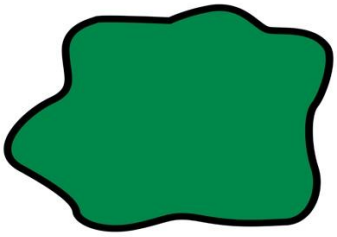
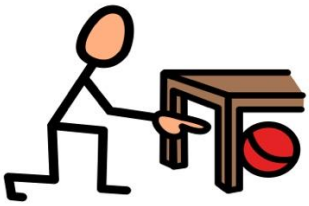
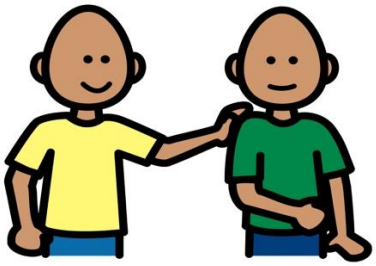
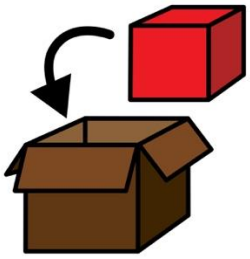
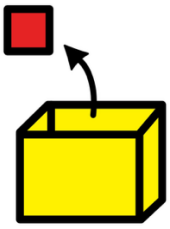
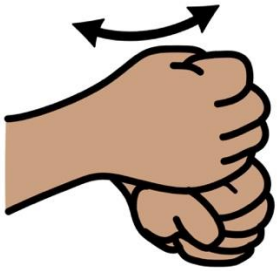
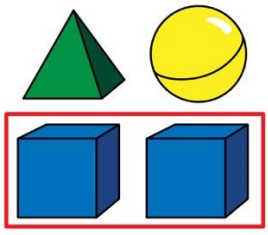
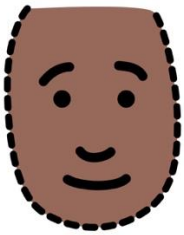
Additional Considerations:

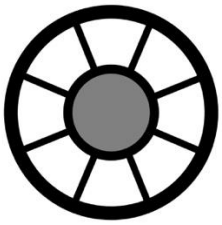
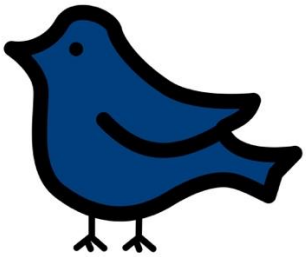
- Benefits of cup stacking

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- PW: Motor Development: Demonstrates developing control of fundamental fine motor skills, including hand-eye coordination (1.b.).
- AL: Engagement and Persistence: Persists in completing a task with increasing concentration (1.c.)
- CD: Problem-Solving and Reasoning: Uses increasingly complex strategies to solve problems (3.a.).

Words to Encourage Play/Use

Yellow 	Orange 	Blue 
Green 	Find 	Touch 
Push 	Put in 	Take out 
Up 	Down 	Make 
Match 	Eyes 	Face 

Wheel 	Car 	Truck 
Animals 	Bird 	

Adapted from: Haugen's Modes for Adapting Toys based on materials from the "Let's Play" Project at the University of Buffalo

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