

# March Preschool Press



## March Themes

Ocean Life

A House for Hermit Crab by Eric Carle

Underwater Adventure

Transportation-Air Travel

Transportation- Land and Sea

Blocks and Math

Celebrate Spring

Words the Rhyme

St. Patrick's Day

Wind and Kites

Weather

## March Calendar

March 17 & 18: St. Patrick's Day

March 21-25: Spring Break  
No School

\*\*April 6 & 7 Columbus Speech and Hearing is coming. More details to come\*\*

## Letters of the

Week

Oo

Jj

Vv

Ww



**Environmental print** is print we see in our daily lives and recognizing this is one of the first steps in literacy development. The colors, numbers, shapes and letters found in names for products and stores such as Target, McDonald's and Goldfish Crackers all provide opportunities for emerging readers to interact with print and written words in their environment. Environmental print is another way to get children interested in reading and builds their confidence. When print holds meaning for children, they begin to get excited about reading and begin to make connections to the world around them. By using the contextual clues found in environmental print, children will begin to transition into the functional print of school more easily.

# THE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OF PLAYING WITH BLOCKS

by Anne Marie Margaritondo

Are old fashioned blocks boring or beneficial? With all of the technology children have access to today, sometimes blocks can seem, well, boring. However, don't underestimate this age-old toy. Blocks remain one of the most important toys for children to use in order to develop critical skills for school and for life.

Through block play, children learn the following skills:

**Science Concepts:** Children learn science when they experience gravity as their constructions fall. They also learn the use of simple machines as they build ramps to their buildings.

**Spatial Reasoning:** Young designers learn to manipulate space and objects through block play. Will this fit here? Will this fall down? Will this make the shape I want? Block play allows children to explore navigation of space and direction.

**Math Concepts:** Some of the math skills encountered through block play include counting, comparison of length and width, names of shapes and how to combine certain geometric shapes to make other shapes. Children are even learning the basics of addition when they discover that two short blocks will be the same size as another longer block.

**Reading and Writing Skills:** Through block play, children understand the importance of sequence, an important early reading skill, as they retell their experiences with the blocks. Both parents and teachers can help children write stories about what they are building.

**Language Skills:** Little builders learn language skills and vocabulary as they discuss what they are building.

**Cooperation and Responsibility:** Children learn cooperation and sharing as they work together with family members or other children during their play. In addition, they learn how to be responsible when they clean up after they are done with the blocks.

The next time you're in a quandary over what kind of gift to purchase for your child's next birthday party, don't forget to consider a quality set of building blocks.

