

Light Up Construction Bricks

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This innovative collection of bricks is a fantastic way of incorporating ICT into a variety of learning contexts. This robust and unique collection is designed with young children's needs and interests in mind and is a lovely resource that supports schematic interests. The children can choose to play with them in a variety of ways. Here are a few suggestions into how they might be utilised.

- The children may just enjoy making discoveries about the bricks. They can determine how they can get the bricks to light up. What happens when the light goes off? How can they be stacked? For many children they will enjoy building with them and then repeating the process. You may wish to have additional building resources to incorporate into their play. The children can then evaluate what will balance, how high can they build etc.? By incorporating different weights, textures and shapes they are experiencing practical mathematical opportunities as well as scientific properties.
- Many children exhibit schematic preferences. For some it maybe building, transferring, enveloping and for others it could be lining up. These bricks can be used to support different interests and behaviours.
- Imagine children using this collection to create fantastic structures that glow. Imagine building with illuminating bricks. They could build a glowing troll cave or a superhero lair. You can encourage the children to think about what kind of structure they may want to create.
- Provide children with different fabrics for the children to wrap the bricks in. Have various textures, colours and levels of transparency. Voiles are great for allowing the colours to shine through. Many children will just like wrapping the items. This is a great opportunity to talk in scientific terms and use the language of properties. Is it transparent, clear or opaque? Is it a soft, smooth or a shiny piece of fabric?
- Use the bricks as loose parts accessories. Some children will use the blocks in exciting symbolic ways. We may see a brick but the child may see a telephone, a magic present etc. Who knows where the children's imaginations may lead.
- The bricks lend themselves to matching activities. Can you find two the same colour? Place them on a surface, all jumbled up and then the children can discover which ones are the same by shaking them to glow.
- The bricks could also be used in simple sequence patterns. Children can make patterns of green, orange, green, orange.
- Adults can create an area with all kinds of stimulus-response light up activities for the children to learn about cause and effect. It could be with a range of other light up items.
- Why not use these blocks in a calming and soothing area. You could create a sensory zone with a darkened surrounding. It could be a Dark Den or a full room, with activities for the children to engage in, but that are also nurturing and calming.
- The bricks can be further enhanced and provide more engaging and enticing provocations if presented to the children in interesting ways. This enables children to explore them freely and further their imagination. Place them on a large light panel, a piece of holographic wrapping paper or fabric that could really add sparkle.
- A large sparkly cloth or glittery scarf could drape over and under the blocks to invite the children in.

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- Try placing the blocks on mirrored surfaces to make the colours really stand out. Why not hide the blocks inside the crate, a treasure chest, hat boxes etc. Imagine a big parcel arrives and it has a label with a message on it. It could read, "Hello children, I have sent you some bricks. These are no ordinary bricks but special ones. Can you discover what makes them so magical? Best wishes, Bob the Builder". You could even record a message for the children to listen to.
- Have the bricks in a giant feely bag. When you put your hand in and shake the blocks. The children could try to predict which colour will emerge (without peeping). You could have two feely bags and the children could each take one out and try to find the matching colours.
- Some children may enjoy the bricks in small world scenarios. They may choose them to be part of a city or a busy street with roads and bridges. They may make mountains and glaciers. Encourage the children to create stories around their characters and build up narratives to develop their early literacy skills. The construction blocks lend themselves to so many potential opportunities.

The above are just a few ideas and the children will no doubt think of many more potential ones.