



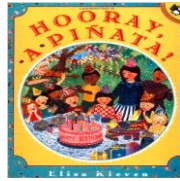
Adding Beautiful Stuff



Blocks

Standards:

CA.DE.PS.1 - 3
CA.VA.PS.1 - 2
PHD.FM.PS.5 -6


Materials:

- *Hooray A Piñata*
- Beautiful Stuff
- containers/baskets
- paper
- clipboards
- writing utensils
- masking tape
- images of school's neighborhood
- images of child-created neighborhoods

Vocabulary:

- structure: a building
- recycle: use again
- natural: not made by people
- construct: build

Preparation: Set up materials.

Intro to Centers:

"In *Hooray A Piñata*, Clara went to a playground in her grandma's neighborhood. What do you notice?"

"How are the neighborhoods you **constructed** in Blocks similar to or different from grandma's neighborhood?"

"Today in Blocks, you can create **structures** for your neighborhoods using Beautiful Stuff--**natural** and **recycled** materials. What do you notice?"

"You can create a **construction** plan with these materials."

Show illustrations. Children respond.

Children respond.

Show Beautiful Stuff. Children respond.

Show materials. Model sketching a plan.

During Centers:

Encourage and support children in creating a plan. Refer to *Road Builders* and children's previous work, i.e., plans /documentation from *Transporting Food*, for inspiration. Encourage children to use a variety of materials. Encourage children to make signs and/or labels for structures. Compare neighborhoods/structures children construct to neighborhoods/structures in unit texts and around the school/children's homes. Use vocabulary that supports children's understanding of spatial relationships i.e., *above, below, next to*, etc.

Guiding Questions during Centers:

- How/why did you decide to use these materials?
- What was your plan for your structure(s)?
- Do you have more/less of these _____ (materials) than _____?
- What might happen if you used different materials?

Thinking & Feedback: Invite children to share their processes. Encourage children to describe the challenges they might have encountered.

Documentation: Take photographs of children and display with captions of the children discussing their process.

Provocation: Invite children to construct a neighborhood/city that takes up the entire Block Center. Walk around the school neighborhood and encourage children to recreate the structures and features that they see. Document the walk with photographs or drawings.

