



## POWER OF PLAY® ACTIVITY GUIDE



### Primary Development Areas Addressed:

- Cognitive
- Sensory-Motor

#### Number of Children

1   2-3   3-5   5-10

       

### Rationale:

Children enjoy seeing immediate results of their thinking and of their actions.

Placing the blocks on the mat enables the child to see if the colors "go together" (match) or not.

The sorting and classifying involved in 1 to 1 matching supports cognitive growth.

#### Environmental Set-up:

The bright colors and large, soft blocks provide for multiple activities for young children.

- Place mat on the floor away from furniture or hard objects
- Place blocks near the mat
- When setting up for the first time, be sure to allow time for children to freely explore the mat and blocks with minimal guidance

#### Objectives:

- Investigate relationship between block colors and colors of squares on the mat
- Sort and match colors
- Use large muscles

#### Activity Overview:

Ask the children to look over the blocks and the mat.

If they pick up a block, where would they want to put it on the mat? Why?

- How many red blocks do you see?
- How many red squares can you find on the mat?
- Look at this big block. Where should we put it on the mat?

#### Guiding Questions:

Are all the blue squares on the mat touching each other?"

"Where are they?"

#### Implications for Brain Development:

Linking language with physical color, size and shape, via Joey's Matching Mat and Block Set, supports the brain's ability to develop a sense of "constancy" or sameness in perception of the world. As the child physically manipulates and moves the various colored blocks to different places on the mat, the brain learns that the size, color, and shape of the object remain the same.

#### Developmental Learning Outcomes:

##### *Sensory-Motor/Physical Development:*

- Improved balance/equilibrium through squatting, standing, shifting while holding large block
- Strengthening of upper extremities and trunk while lifting and placing
- Enhanced visual-perceptual skills

##### *Cognitive Development:*

- Sorting blocks by color
- Spatial relationship of blocks to squares on mat
- Problem solving of where to place blocks and why

##### *Language Development:*

- Communicating reasoning to others
- Listening to questions

##### *Social/Emotional Development:*

- Associate play with other children
- Borrowing/loaning blocks (sharing)

#### Activity Variation:

- Place blocks on colored squares that are different from the block color
- Count the blocks and count the mat squares of each color

#### Resources:

Play Bac Publishing. (2007). EyeLike Colors. NYC, NY: Play Bac Publishing. (children's book)