



Every year, Purdue Extension from the College of Health and Human Sciences reaches more than **1.4 million people** with educational programs that improve the quality of life for individuals and families across Indiana.

Our eight signature programs focus on key areas—including **healthy food choices, physical activity, money management, health care, and parenting**—and our grant-funded programs provide **foods and nutrition education** for individuals and schools.

To learn more about programs from Purdue Extension Health and Human Sciences, connect with us at:

www.purdue.edu/hhs/extension

FOCUS ON ... BLOCK PARTY

The **Block Party program** offered by Purdue Extension provides events that include free play with blocks of all types and sizes for families and their children ages 8 months to 8 years. Parents interact and play with their children while learning how to help them develop a variety of skills such as math, science, social, physical, new words, pre-reading, creative, and problem-solving skills.

Unfortunately, blocks as a play material have disappeared from many homes and early childhood centers, but young children still need and deserve opportunities that blocks offer to play freely!



Play with Blocks— It's Constructive!

Benefits of Block Play

Purdue Extension faculty and educators are studying block play as a rich, developmentally appropriate activity for young children—one that contributes to their readiness for kindergarten. Researchers have found:

- Children develop a variety of skills through block play—
 - > **Math**
 - > **Physics**
 - > **Early Engineering**
 - > **Creativity**
 - > **Social Skills**
 - > **Physical Skills and Movement**
- Preschoolers playing with large “loose parts” blocks demonstrated twice as much whole-body movement and four times as many early engineering behaviors as compared with play on a traditional playground.
- Girls and boys were equally physically active and equally engaged in early engineering.
- Parents who attended an Extension-sponsored Block Party reported a fourfold increase in their understanding of the value of block play and how to support their children's play.

For more information about the Block Party program, visit:

www.purdue.edu/hhs/extension/blockparty

