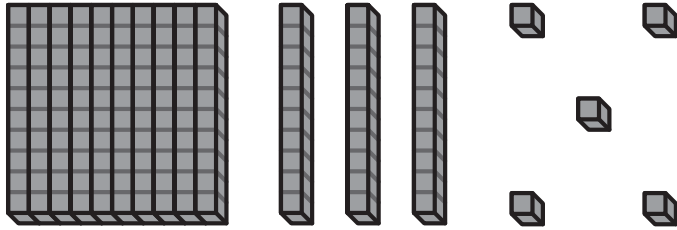


Activity Suggestions



Base-ten concepts become familiar to children as they explore with these foam Base Ten blocks. Let your child start by simply playing with the blocks—building roads, towers, bridges, and so on. As your child plays, he or she will begin to develop a sense of the relationships among the blocks. You can then move on to more formal activities, such as:

Name the Blocks

Hold up the red hundred-flat and identify it as a “flat.” Hold up the blue ten-rod and identify it as a “long.” Hold up the yellow unit-cube and identify it as a “mini.” Avoid attaching number values to the different blocks until the child has had ample free play with the blocks.

Cover the Book

Show your child a book. Ask, “How many flats cover this book? Can you cover it exactly? What other blocks do you need to cover it exactly?”

Measure an Object

Have your child measure his/her foot using only longs and minis. Ask, “Why are longs and minis a better way to measure this (object) than flats?”

Counting

Scatter a handful of minis (more than 10) on the table and have your child count them. Ask, “How can you use the longs to make counting easier?”

Show the child a flat. Ask, “How many longs will cover the flat exactly?”

Make a Number

Write a number on an index card or piece of paper and ask your child to show you that number in Base Ten blocks—for example, three longs and six minis to show “36.”



Show your child one long and fifteen minis. Ask your child, “What number is this? Is there another way to show this number?”

Trading Game

Play a simple trading game with your child.

Taking turns, each of you throws a die and collects that number of minis. Each time one player has 10 minis or more, he/she must trade the 10 minis for a long. The player who has the most longs at the end of the game wins.

Trading to 100

Ask, “What happens when I have ten longs? What can I trade them for?”

Additional Activities

For additional activities with base ten blocks, see *Working with Base Ten Blocks* by Rob Madell (available at www.didax.com, item #211017).

HANDS-ON MATH

Activities for:

Base Ten Blocks



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