

BACK TO BASICS WITH SIX BRICKS



~ Brent Hutcheson ~

"Children must master the language of things before they can master the language of words."

~ Frederich Froebel ~

Back to Basics with Six Bricks provides opportunities for children to develop their working memory, perceptual, speaking and listening skills and forms the foundations for effective reasoning, literacy and numeracy. Through play, children develop the core learning skills of self-regulation, curiosity, creativity and playfulness, which forms the foundation on which all later learning takes place. The teacher guided options are open-ended and allow plenty of opportunity for children to control and direct their own learning. By using concrete manipulatives, teachers can develop the sensory, physical and socio-emotional skills needed for critical thinking and learning. Children's involvement in Six Bricks activities greatly promotes speech, language skills, numeracy skills as well as perceptual development. It also demonstrated the importance of using manipulatives with children to develop and foster critical thinking and learning skills.

Advantages of using Six Bricks activities

Once Six Bricks activities become a daily habit, a whole lot of reinforcement of learning takes place in a fun and playful way, which children need! Children grow and develop at different rates – it is so easy to adapt Six Bricks activities to any child's level, thereby making the activities suitably challenging for all. Six Bricks activities caters for different learning styles by using many different ways to teach – it caters for the visual learner; the auditory learner; the tactile learner. Six Bricks allows for a variety of responses from children at different stages of development.

Each child has their own unique "time-table" – ready to learn according to his / her own maturation

process. Teacher must respect this readiness factor which may or may not coincide with the rest of the children in the class. Activities with Six Bricks gives the children the opportunity to grasp concepts through concrete manipulation. In this way, readiness skills can be practised and developed. Children create & invent their own ideas & rules for games for new Six Bricks activities, making them in charge of their own learning.

Activities with Six Bricks allows children to make mistakes without feeling ashamed or embarrassed. It enables the PROCESS to become important, not the result. Children can make mistakes and learn from their mistakes – improve; try out; experiment without the fear of “being wrong”. In this way they become confident and adventurous and other ideas spark.

Children develop core learning skills through play. Six Bricks is an attempt to bring back that element of playful learning to the classroom and more specifically to the child’s desk – because of the large number of children in any one class, there is little to no space for play and learning with manipulatives. Six Bricks on each child’s desk creates the possibility for each child to build knowledge with their hands whilst manipulating the 3D brick, without needing too much space.

Six Bricks activities cater for the “whole child”; they have been organized into six developmental areas, yet each is integrated; activities are especially designed to cover all learning areas and developmental skills and in so doing, also develops the executive function of the brain – certain activities especially focus on developing working memory; cognitive flexibility & inhibitory control = learning for LIFE – develops self-control for adulthood.

Working with Six Bricks allows the Teacher the opportunity to observe the children while they are engaged in an activity or game. The Teacher can look for evidence of their social, emotional, physical & intellectual growth. It helps the teacher to see each child as an individual – watching & working with Six Bricks exposes how different each child is. Six Bricks is a great tool for parents to use with their children at home when assisting them with skills development or homework.

Teachers using Six Bricks activities change the way they teach – they realise that children can direct their own learning; the Teacher takes a step back from being the main focus and the child becomes important. Six Bricks activities supports the curriculum