

3.2 Group 2: Fine Muscles and Art

- 12.** At the age of 3, most children should be ready to learn how to build a tower of 9-10 blocks using the WOODEN BLOCK SET. Your child's ability to focus and plan the task ahead is now more advanced and you will find that his structures are more balanced. Since children of this age play with blocks for the fun of it, they don't purposefully construct real objects such as "a car" or "a train" on their own. One should be careful as to not ruin the experience for a child by making him name everything he creates.

Inspire your 3-year old to spontaneously experiment with building bridges by demonstrating how he can place two cubes a small distance from each other, before placing a third block on top of these two to bridge the gap. He is now also ready to start building closed constructions, which means that you can demonstrate to him how he can use four blocks to completely enclose a space. Since he is now naturally interested in combining different kinds of toys, he will respond well to playing games that involve using the wooden blocks to build 'houses' for animals in the ANIMAL SET.

Manual Dexterity / Hand-eye Coordination

- 13.** The two of you can make 'jewellery' by threading *animals* from the ANIMAL SET or *pieces* from the CONSTRUCTION SET onto the *laces* from the PEGBOARD SET. Make a game out of threading in an alternating pattern, for example, *red, blue, red, blue*, etc. Use the *side panels* of Card 5 and 6 from the PEGBOARD SET as examples. Make sure that your child sees from your example that you are following the instructions step by step. Stop every now and then and ask him to help you check on the card which colour you should be using next. He should be able to thread at least six pieces before losing interest.

Manual Dexterity / Hand-eye Coordination / Visual Pattern-following

- 14.** Use two objects with contrasting attributes. Show and explain them to your child, for example:

Hard - an animal from the ANIMAL SET	Soft - a soft toy
Smooth - a saucer	Rough - the bark of a tree
Wet - a wet cloth	Dry - a dry cloth
Thick - Daddy's leg	Thin - your child's leg
Big - any big object	Small - any small object
Heavy - a rock	Light - a crumpled up ball of paper

3-year olds understand concepts better on a physical level, so ask him to touch objects while his eyes are closed and tell you if it's *hard* or *soft*, *dry* or *wet*, etc.

Stereognosis / Tactile Perception / Active Language Development