

Pointers For Parents

Building Creativity By Building Creatively

(NAPSA)—Open-ended, creative play enhances learning and promotes feelings of confidence and competence in children. Through experimentation, it is now known, kids discover, create, innovate and communicate—and through the process of “trial and error,” children better understand the world around them.

So, if they build it—playing with building blocks or with construction sets—will creative problem-solving skills come?

Yes, say the experts. These skills are sharpened through risk, rehearsal and reinforcement.

“Recognizing and learning from struggles with form and balance in play are important experiences for kids,” says Dr. Helen Boehm, child development expert and author.

For more than a decade, K’NEX™ construction sets have provided such experiences for kids ages six and up. Now, younger children, ages three to seven, can also build on this success with new lines that provide age-appropriate building sets, such as KID K’NEX.

Research has shown that young children prefer to play with characters and personalities they can relate to rather than objects and structures. With KID K’NEX, children can build an endless variety of new “buddies” with whom they can form fun playtime relationships and at the same time develop pride in their creative accomplishments. Big buggy eyes, large chunky parts, and crazy colored pieces enable preschoolers to give their creations personalities. Interlocking parts can be combined for a different building experience each time the child



K’NEX construction sets, long an important part of creative play, are now also designed for younger children to enjoy.

plays, with the freedom to create simple or increasingly complex formations.

Because the cognitive and fine-motor skills of children between the ages of three and seven vary greatly, three different KID K’NEX sets were created to meet developmental learning needs: Bug-Eyes Buddies™ is designed for the youngest builders, aged three to four; Footed Friends™ contains more pieces and special parts and is designed for beginner builders five years and older; and Rovin’ Rollers™, which features a popular vehicle theme, more unique parts, and fun interactive clocking sounds, is designed for each of these young builders to step up to as they develop their skills. Each construction set contains a fun picture book filled with suggestions for flexible learning through imaginative play.

For more information, visit www.kidknex.com.