



Early Childhood

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ECED and an Introduction to the Building Blocks Curriculum

December 14, 2023



Agenda



An Overview of Our Work

Building Blocks Curriculum

Parent Feedback



ECED - An Overview of Our Work



Mission Statement: Our mission is to ensure that young children enter kindergarten fully prepared to thrive by providing nurturing, safe, equitable, and family-friendly learning environments.

We view children as competent and capable learners, and value their voices and those of their families.

We commit to engage, support, and challenge children through evidence-based, developmentally appropriate, anti-racist instructional practices, and to support family engagement and well-being for all families, and especially for those whose voices have historically been marginalized.



ECED - An Overview of Our Work



ECE Instructional Team

Instructional Coaching
Curriculum Assessments

ECE Family Services Team

Social Workers /
Licensed Clinicians

ECE Operations Team

School Supports
Procurement
Budget



Early Childhood



ECED - An Overview of Our Work



Ready for Pre-K!

- Virtual Parent Education Sessions
- Community Events
- Scribbles Videos
- Family Toolkits



DC PUBLIC
SCHOOLS PRESENTS

**Ready for
Pre-K!**

FREE online workshops for families!

FEB
22

**Identity Affirming Homes:
Embedding Anti-bias Practices in our Parenting
with Dr. Traci Baxley**

Wednesday, February 22 at 5:30 PM
Register at bit.ly/dcpsecersvp



Early Childhood



Agenda



An Overview of Our Work

Building Blocks Curriculum

Parent Feedback



Why are we talking about PK curriculum?



DCPS engages in ongoing quality improvement efforts, including a periodic curriculum review, to ensure that our classrooms provide the highest quality early childhood education.

- Principals and teachers have been asking for enhanced and updated curriculum guidance.
- ECED + teachers are interested in exploring what an anti-racist, social-justice-oriented curriculum could look like in ECE.
- Emerging research has provided new information.





Stakeholder Engagement

SY20-21

- Research Deep Dive
- Teacher Task Force
- Principal Focus Groups

SY21-22

- Curriculum Work Group
(Teachers & Principals)
- Parent Focus Group
- Boston Site Visits

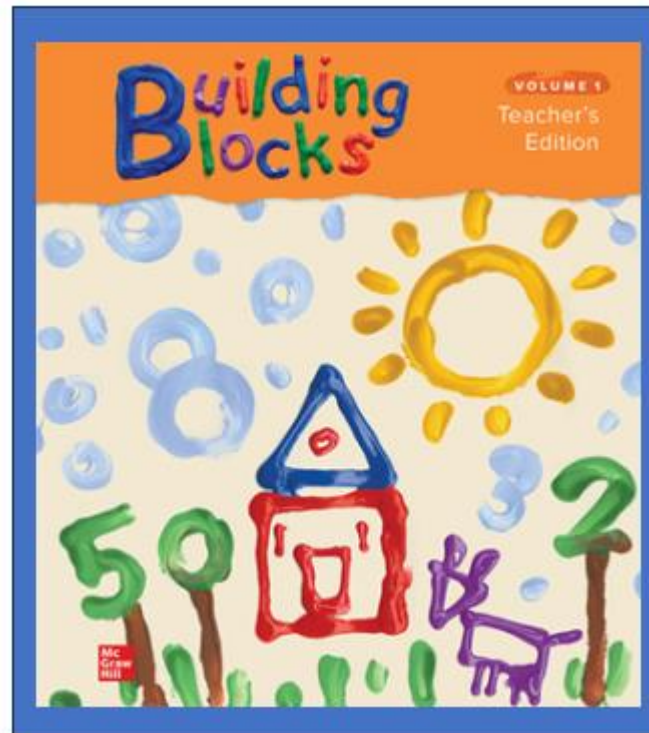
SY22-23

- Parent Focus Group
- Teacher Focus Groups
(~70 teachers)
- Para Focus Groups
- ECED Race & Equity Council



Resulting Decisions

Introduction of
the Building
Blocks math
curriculum in
SY23-24



Additional
curriculum
resources in
SY24-25 and
beyond



Why Math??



Early math learning is a powerful predictor of children's subsequent academic performance.

“Studies show that mathematical reasoning ability may be even more crucial as a building block for success in school and beyond. When children understand early math concepts before they enter kindergarten, they perform better on math and reading tests in later years.”

EdSource (2021) K. D'Souza

Parent Feedback



To what extent have you received information about the Building Blocks curriculum?



In what ways are you seeing your children engage with mathematical ideas at home?



Why Building Blocks??



BB focuses on the right skills



BB is aligned with how we know children learn best



BB is asset-based



BB works!

Why Building Blocks??



★ Building Blocks is aligned with how we know young children learn best

- Playful
- Hands-On
- Emphasizing critical thinking, reasoning, problem solving
- Individualized

Whole Group Activities
Small Group Activities
Play – Hands On Math Center
“Mathematizing” the Day



Why Building Blocks??



★ Building Blocks is aligned with how we know young children learn best

Whole Group Activities



Short, playful

Designed to introduce a concept or skill



Small Group Activities



Short, playful, hands-on

Tailored to children's developmental levels

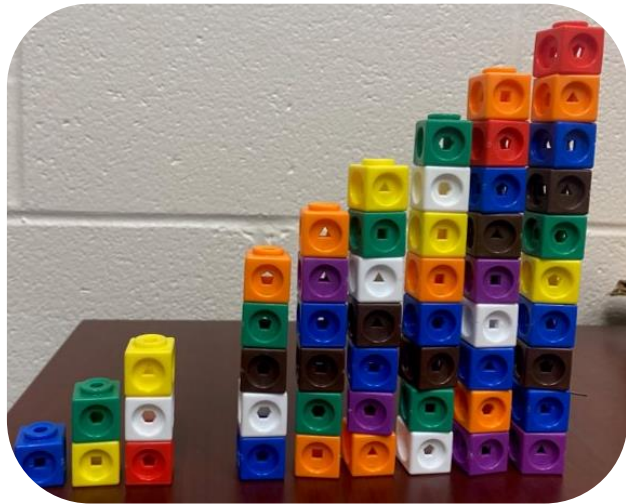


Why Building Blocks??



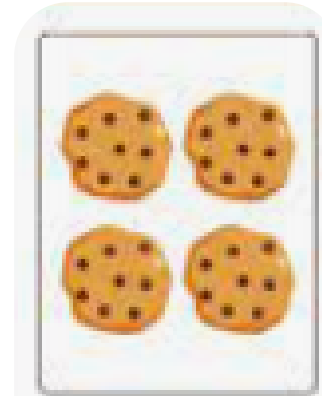
★ Building Blocks is aligned with how we know young children learn best

Small Group Activities



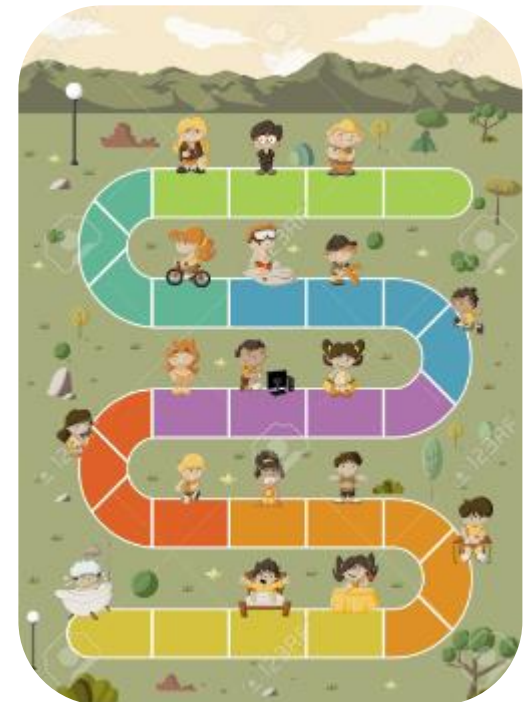
Build Cube Stairs

Construct 2-D Shapes



How Many?

Path Games



Why Building Blocks??



★ Building Blocks is aligned with how we know young children learn best

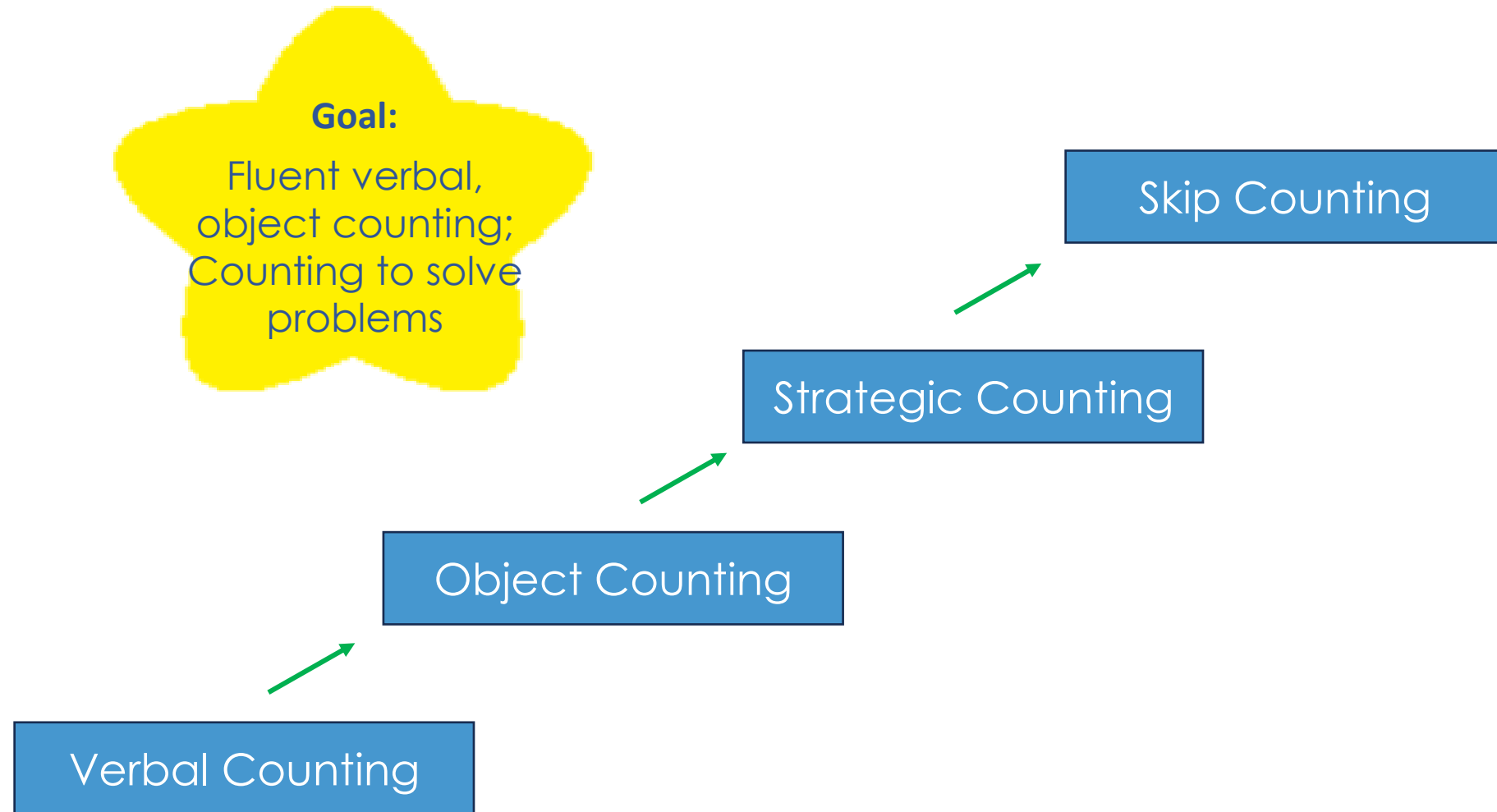
Child-Directed Play



Mathematizing the Day

Why Building Blocks??

★ Building Blocks is aligned with how we know young children learn best



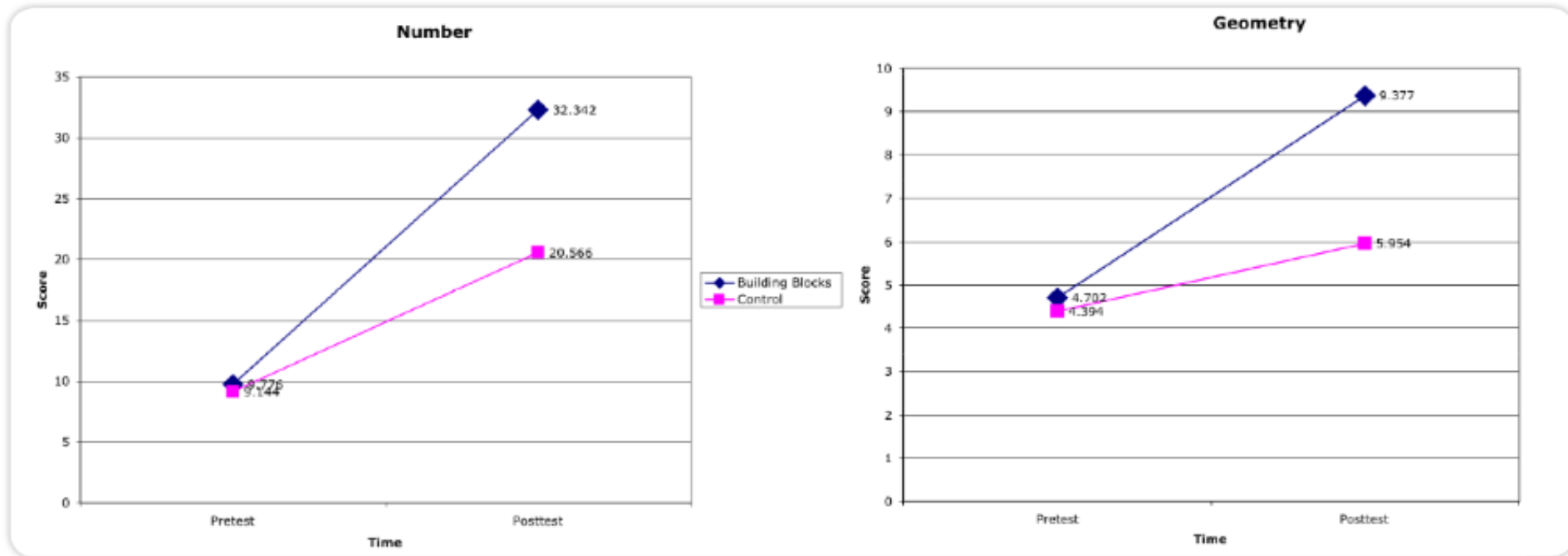
Why Building Blocks?



Building Blocks Works!



- ✓ Studies have shown that children who participate in the Building Blocks curriculum significantly outperform other children in key math skills and concepts, with effect sizes that double what is usually considered to be “strong.”
- ✓ The What Works Clearinghouse gives the Building Blocks curriculum the highest effectiveness rating for promoting “General Mathematics Achievement.”





Questions???



Early Childhood

Agenda



An Overview of Our Work

Building Blocks Curriculum

Parent Feedback



Parent Feedback



To what extent have you received information about the Building Blocks curriculum?



In what ways are you seeing your children engage with mathematical ideas at home?



What information about the curriculum would be most helpful for parents to receive?



What is the best way to convey curriculum information to parents?



What could we be doing to effectively partner with parents to promote children's learning?



Social Media

Remember to follow all our social media accounts to stay updated on new events and more!

 @dcpsearlychildhood

 @DcpsEarlyChildhood



Early Childhood