### Basic Skills

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### Visual Typology: Construction Skills

- **Bridging**
  - Basic
  - Variations
- **Combining Parts**
  - Basic
  - Variations
- **Cornering**
  - Basic
  - Variations
- **Covering**
  - Basic
  - Variations
- **Fitting**
  - Basic
  - Variations
- **Imbricating**
  - Basic
  - Variations
- **Lining Up**
  - Basic
  - Variations
- **Making Containers**
  - Basic
  - Variations
- **Making Curves**
  - Basic
  - Variations
- **Making Equal**
  - Basic
  - Variations
- **Making Lines**
  - Basic
  - Variations
- **Making Openings**
  - Basic
  - Variations
- **Making Tunnels**
  - Basic
  - Variations
- **Packaging/Embedding**
  - Basic
  - Variations
- **Ramping**
  - Basic
  - Variations
- **Propping**
  - Basic
  - Variations
- **Supporting**
  - Basic
  - Variations
- **Walling**
  - Basic
  - Variations

Drawn by architect Kathlyn Hatch based on direct observation of children’s work.

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This Visual Typology of Construction Skills was developed after years of direct observation and documentation of children aged 2–8 as they worked with blocks and other three-dimensional construction materials.

The observations were analyzed by a broad representation of experts (early childhood educators and special educators; neuropsychologists; kinesthetic specialists; architects; research specialists; mathematicians; and science education specialists) using qualitative and quantitative research methodologies.

Architect Kathlyn Hatch sketched each drawing to represent children’s work observed over time.

How to use this chart:

• The drawings of basic skills represent those construction skills children must master first in order to move to any of the other skills in the typology.

• Adults can use the typology to help them notice children’s mastery of skills, as well as to scaffold children’s attempts to master new skills.

• The typology may also be posted in classrooms or homes (indoors or outdoors) to encourage children to try new ways of working with blocks and other three-dimensional materials.