

Making a map

Rather than immediately stopping disturbing behavior, our teaching team has been exploring other possibilities. For instance, today Juan, and Joseph were quite active and unfocused in the block area. At first it wasn't clear what they wanted to do because they just started pulling all the blocks and cars off of the shelves and throwing them on top of each other in a scramble on the floor. This seemed exciting to them as they added explosion sounds to the crashing of the blocks as they hit each other. Joseph then grabbed a long block and started swinging it around, nearly missing Juan.

Seeing this, Teacher Ann quickly gathered a basket of trucks and cars and asked if there were any road builders here today so there would be a place to drive the cars and trucks and no one would get hurt in a traffic accident.

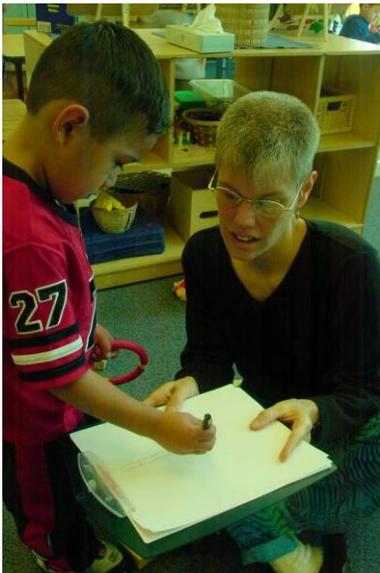
Juan and Joseph immediately began lining up unit blocks end to end.

Joseph: Let's make it a really long road, all the way there... long.

Juan: Here, here, go here.

Joseph: No, no, it needs to go long, here. I want it to be long, here. (He took some of Juan's blocks and put them at the end of his growing road.)

Juan screamed in protest: NO! NO! HERE! HERE! (He kicks apart Joseph's road scattering the blocks.)



Ann quickly arrives with a clipboard: I'm drawing the road you made out of blocks. (handing the clipboard and pen to Joseph) Will you draw some of the blocks for our map? That way we can remember how the road goes. We can use this as a map to help us rebuild. Our drawing tells us where the blocks should go.

Ann stood the clipboard up on its side and Juan looked at it repeatedly as he began replacing the blocks end to end.



Ann: Let's add cars to the map. Can you two work together to draw some cars?

The boys negotiated their own turn taking and their drawings showed not only the road, but the movement of the cars and told the story of themselves at play.

