

# THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE AND USE OF THE DUPLO PLAY BOX

## What is a Charity Box ?

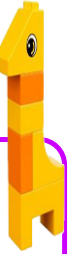
- A mix of LEGO DUPLO elements - bricks / people / animals / vehicles / base plates and other exciting pieces.
- Age appropriate sized elements enable children to handle the manipulatives confidently; to quickly build outside of their field of vision and thereby develop abstract thinking.
- A variety of open-ended manipulatives – a valuable teaching / learning tool which facilitates early childhood development through play.
- Easy for children to explore, create, play and interact with others and their environment.



*Active learning stimulates a number of developmental areas.  
These skills are needed for critical thinking and learning to take place.*

## Cognitive Skills Development

- A great tool for children to actively construct something in the physical world, which helps them to build knowledge in their mind.
- Children problem solve, think creatively, understand spatial relations, make choices and decisions, observe, sort, categorize, estimate, count and compute.
- Creativity develops when children can use their imagination in playful ways to generate ideas, to question and make connections, to experiment and take risks.
- Sort and classify DUPLO elements for shape, size, function and characteristics.
- Provides endless opportunities to develop vital perceptual skills involving the whole child.



## Training / Workshops

- Teachers receive training in the form of a hands-on workshop which give them many ideas on how to use the manipulatives and integrate them into their curriculum and daily activities.
- This training also illustrates how teacher-facilitated DUPLO activities can develop the executive function of the child's brain – this is the suite of related abilities for self-control, which include planning ahead; the ability to change and adapt ideas; inhibiting undesirable responses and holding information in working memory. Executive function provides the core ingredients for self-control in adulthood.
- The supportive teacher who values what the child has built, and treats the child's creations with respect will motivate him/her to further experimentation and self-discovery.



*The many ways to use these bricks create endless possibilities and provide opportunities for children to experience success. Original*

## Emotional Skills Development

- A sense of security develops because bricks are reliable and predictable.
- Children take control of their own learning and confidence is boosted.



## Social Skills Development

- Children work in groups – make friends and share ideas.
- Take turns; collaborate; negotiate; pool their knowledge; persevere and solve problems.
- Children can role-play – be the “boss” or the “doctor” or the “baby”.
- Understand others' perspectives; develop empathy.

## Physical / Motor Skills Development

- Strengthen large muscles, develop whole-body co-ordination and cross the midline.
- Fine-motor development and hand-eye co-ordination - use their fingers and hands.
- The simple clicking together of two bricks involves bilateral integration – where both hemispheres of the brain are being used to co-ordinate a body movement.
- Develop gross-motor skills and spatial awareness.

