

THE HONEYCOMB HYPOTHESIS

Designing Environments

The Honeycomb Hypothesis uses the honeybee and its behavior movements to help us understand how young children learn.



STICKS & PATTERNS OF PLAY

In 2008, the National Toy Hall of Fame inducted the stick as the ultimate toy for young children. To an adult, a stick may seem insignificant and mundane. To a child, however, a stick is endless possibilities especially with the Pattern of Play of Making & Unmaking. With sticks, children put together and take apart combinations of materials using the stick as a base. There are many materials that can be woven with sticks such as grasses, ivy, twine, and leaves.

Many materials can be woven with sticks.

- Lace/Ribbons/Raffia
 - Silk Flowers/Real Flowers
 - Fabric Scraps
 - Colored Masking Tape
 - Paper (all kinds)
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Making & Unmaking

Y Sticks. Find a few Y-shaped sticks on the playground or in your backyard. Once you have a “look-out” for sticks shaped in this configuration, you will find plenty! Find small enough sticks for little hands. For safety, blunt cut away any sharp or pointed ends. Fill a small basket or cardboard box with weaving materials you have collected. Weaving materials should be short pieces. Encourage children to weave the materials on the stick in any fashion they wish. Children will practice the Pattern of Play of Attaching &



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Detaching as they put together and take apart combinations of materials using the sticks as the weaving base.

Stick Weaving. Place a variety of weaving materials (i.e., yarn, heavy string, raffia) that have been cut into short pieces in a basket. Place several interesting sticks next to the weaving materials. Sticks that are short and thick are the best type to use. Encourage the Pattern of Play of Making & Unmaking. Another idea is to offer squeezable glue so children can use the glue to attach the materials to the stick. Be ready for a mess, though, because children love the squeezing of the glue as much as they like attaching the materials.

