

Shades of Tonal Soft Blocks

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A collection of subtly shaded, fabric blocks, enabling children to colour match, collate and construct. Each set has varying tones of the same colour that can be explored with in a variety of ways. These blocks help to convey that all greens and blues are not the same. These blocks can be balanced, lined up and incorporated into small world play.

- The soft blocks are in beautiful, subtle shades of colours to encourage children to understand that not all greens are the same. Instead you may have lime, olive and emerald green. These intriguing blocks support children's rich language development as they learn new words to describe colours.
- These soft, fabric blocks can be used to balance, line up and stack. Children can independently create their own construction using the cubes and pyramids.
- Children with schematic behaviours may just enjoy lining them up by colour or by shape. They may enjoy transporting them from one cubby hole to another or positioning them on the worktop of the activity station.
- The Shades of Tonal Soft Blocks fit perfectly into these cubby holes so children can access them with ease. This collection of subtly shaded, fabric blocks enables children to colour match, collate and construct.
- Some children may use these blocks to create different kinds of small worlds. They could create an entire blue ocean and have whales, starfish and an octopus to accessorise. The children may want to use different fabrics to be the waves of the sea. Support the children by having many different extra resources for them to independently access.
- Children may use these in their symbolic play, perhaps they may pretend that they are 'Postman Pat' delivering parcels or they may be presents from Father Christmas and the children are elves in the workshop. The opportunities for children to independently explore the soft blocks imaginatively is endless.
- These soft blocks are a wonderful addition to children's construction materials. They may build towering castles or little villages with these blocks. Some children may just enjoy trying to build the tallest tower whilst others may want to build with a specific colour.
- You can use these soft fabric blocks for mathematical development by creating sequences and patterns. Children could create patterns of cube, pyramid and cube or they could use colours such as green, purple and green. Support the children in thinking about what may come next. Perhaps you could create your own pattern cards to support in their learning and development.

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- Perhaps you could go on a colour walk with the children (risk assess). Take recording devices with you to document what you have found. They may find a red post box, a green leaf, a brown conker etc. when you return support the children in documenting their finding. Perhaps the children could find the colour that was most/least found. Are they naturally found items or manmade? Encourage the children to think about different materials. The post box is cold and made of metal but painted red. The conker is hard and smooth, grows brown but it emerges from a green spikey husk. Why not print off the images the children have documented so the children could categorise them into colours.
- You could place these soft blocks alongside other colourful items such as beads, buttons, feathers, jewels (risk assess) for the children to sort and match. Children can develop their early mathematical skills by sorting and matching between the different tonal colours. Support the children with having plenty of interesting pots and baskets to place their items inside. Some children may want to use tweezers when selecting their items to support their fine motor skills.