Hansel's "Creative block play: A comprehensive guide to learning through building" (Book Review)

Kristin Vargas
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

The Christian Librarian is the official publication of the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL). To learn more about ACL and its products and services please visit http://www.acl.org/

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl

Part of the Early Childhood Education Commons

Recommended Citation
Vargas, Kristin (2017) "Hansel's "Creative block play: A comprehensive guide to learning through building" (Book Review)," The Christian Librarian: Vol. 60 : Iss. 2 , Article 28.
Available at: http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol60/iss2/28

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Christian Librarian by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolfe@georgefox.edu.

Rosanne Regan Hansel has a masters of education in early childhood leadership from Bank Street College of Education. She works for the New Jersey Department of Education in the Office of Primary Education and coauthored the New Jersey Kindergarten Guidelines.

Creative Block Play was written by Hansel out of concern for the “laser-like focus” on paper-and-pencil tasks, e.g. math, language, and literacy skills. While these skills are important and gear children for employment as adults, the lack of basic social, gross and fine motor skills, means children are entering grade school already behind and are underprepared to tackle creative problem solving and deep thinking. Hansel points to the lack of spontaneous, unorganized three-dimensional playtime for children as the main culprit, and far too much two-dimension screen time for the very young.

The goal of Creative Block Play is to teach parents and early childhood educators the value of building blocks and play. Using beautiful, full-color graphics, cutouts and text, Hansel explains in a friendly, easy to understand way how this type of play develops the cognitive abilities of the child. Hansel categorizes different forms of block play: stacking, counting, building, rotating, etc. The reader is also walked through different kinds of loose parts and how to make imaginative play more attractive by using a wide-variety of materials and shapes.

Creative Block Play is an excellent resource in early childhood development and would make a great textbook or guide for the novice educator or interested parent. Hansel’s love for children and passion for education shines through the pages, making it easy for the reader to become invested in her ideas.

Reviewer
Kristin A. Vargas, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary