

Broad Stair

Purpose: To help develop a child's visual discrimination of two linear dimensions: width and height. Along with the introduction to the mathematical concepts such as width and height, the broad stair helps develop muscular strength and muscle memory in the hands.

Directions: The child will roll out a mat on the floor and retrieve the broad stair carrying one prism at a time, starting with the thinnest prism and placing them on the mat in a random order without touching one another. Once all of the prisms are in random order on the mat, the child will begin to build the stair. The child will select the thickest prism and compare it in size to the remaining prisms so they can see it is the thickest. The teacher will then isolate the thickest prism on the mat in front of the child with the square end facing the child. The child will then choose the next thickest prism and compare it in size to the remaining prisms and placing it slowly and methodically to the right of the first prism, so the two square ends are flush. The previous step is repeated with the remaining prisms until the stair is complete. The child will then glide an open hand along the tops of the prisms from left to right, indicating the incremental decrease in size from the thickest prism to the thinnest prism. When the child is



finished working with the brown stair, the prisms are returned to the shelf, one at a time, starting with the thickest prism.

Extensions:

- Measuring the difference between one prism and the next
- Building the brown stair vertically removing one prism
- Performing a stereognostic exercise
- Building the brown stair and pink tower together

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