
Date:

Teacher\Classroom:

Dear Parents/Community Members,

We are excited to be incorporating a unique learning tool called LEGO® Education BuildToExpress into our daily activities. I would like to tell you a little bit about this tool, how we will be using it, and how it will help our students.

What is BuildToExpress?

LEGO Education BuildToExpress is a communication tool developed by teachers and educational specialists. Each set contains a variety of LEGO elements. The range of bricks, colors, and minifigures has been carefully selected to inspire students and stimulate creative thinking and expression. Using these elements as a hands-on tool, an educational process has been developed to help students communicate complex thoughts and ideas.

Why use BuildToExpress in the classroom?

- It appeals to many students with different learning styles.
- It promotes open discussion and a variety of viewpoints.
- It encourages creativity, reflection, and problem solving.
- It engages and motivates students to express their ideas.
- It supports students by giving them a hands-on tool to represent and communicate their ideas.
- It helps students practice active listening and develop confidence when others are listening to them.

How does BuildToExpress work?

The BuildToExpress process includes four phases:

1. **The Challenge:** The students will be given a Building Challenge, such as “Build a model that shows the different ways you communicate with other people.”
2. **Building:** The students build models with the LEGO elements provided in the BuildToExpress Sets to show their ideas about the Building Challenge.
3. **Sharing:** The students share their models with their group members by describing the different bricks they have chosen and what they represent.
4. **Recap:** The students review and reflect on what they have discussed and shared with each other.

Although the models built will not be used as marked assignments themselves, by having the students complete a process to communicate their thoughts and document and reflect on their ideas, LEGO Education BuildToExpress will help me assess the students' understanding of key concepts and encourage innovative thinking.

Over the course of the year, we will be documenting various builds with photos, videos, and written assignments so that you may share in your child's progress. I encourage you to ask about his or her experiences with LEGO Education BuildToExpress and to contact me if you have any questions.

You can also learn more about LEGO Education BuildToExpress by visiting the LEGO Education Web site:

<http://www.legoeducation.us/BuildToExpress>

Sincerely,