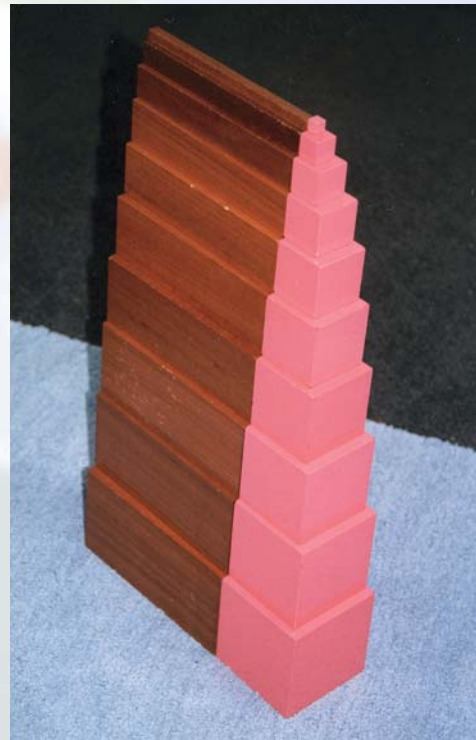


Presentation of the Brown Stair



Extension 5



Extension 6

The Broad/Brown Stair

Purpose

To develop visual discrimination of width. **Age:** 3 – 3.5 years old.

Material

There are ten brown wooden prisms all the same in length, but differing in width and height by one centimeter each.

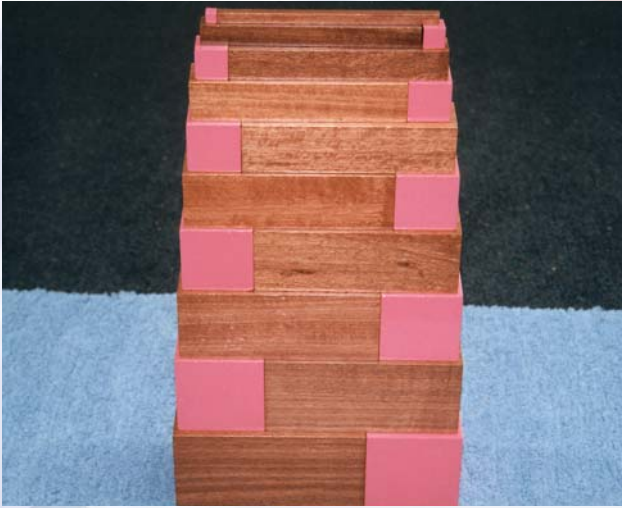
*Most schools now call the Broad Stair the Brown Stair because it eliminates confusion associated with the terminology.

Presentation

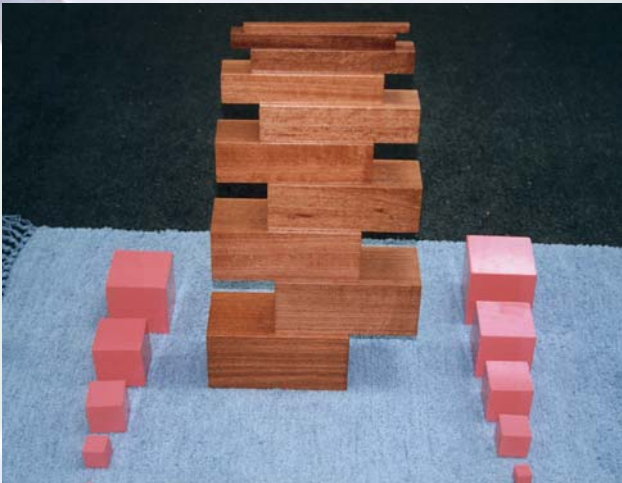
- Invite a child to roll out a floor mat and explain that you would like to present the Brown Stair.
- Walk with the child to where the Brown Stair is kept, and show him how to hold one of the prisms by using both hands, with one hand at each end of the prism.
- Carry each prism separately and scatter them on the mat.
- Find the thickest prism (by comparing it to the others), and place it in front of the child.
- Select the next thickest prism, and place it beside the first.
- Continue building the Brown Stair.
- When you are finished show the child how the thinnest prism acts as the “control of error” by fitting flush at the step of each stair.
- Invite the child to scatter the prisms and repeat the presentation.

Extension 1

- Invite a child to build the Brown Stair.
- Ask the child to close his eyes while you remove one of the prisms.
- Leave the prism in full view of the child.
- Ask the child to show you where the prism belongs in the Stair.



Extension 7



Extension 7 continued



Extension 8 continued



Extension 8

- Place it where he has indicated.
- The child should check his decision with the smallest prism.

Extension 2

- Repeat Extension 1, except this time hide the prism that you remove behind you.

Extension 3 - Memory Exercise 1

- Ask the child to scatter the prisms on a mat across the classroom and then build the Brown Stair.

Extension 4 - Memory Exercise 2

- The child scatters the prisms around the classroom and builds the Brown Stair on a mat.

Extension 5

- As a parallel activity, encourage the child to construct the Pink Tower and the Brown Stair horizontally. Allow the child to compare and contrast the two items.

Extension 6

- As Extension 5, except built vertically.

Extension 7

- Build the Pink Tower as it is shown in the picture, then starting at the top carefully remove each pink cube.

Extension 8

- Known as the “Shadow”. Build the Pink Tower and Brown Stair as it is shown in the picture, then shine a bright light at the Pink Tower, creating its shadow over the Brown Stair.

Direct Aim:

To develop visual discrimination of width.

Indirect Aim:

Muscular development.

Control of Error:

The thinnest prism

Vocabulary:

Thick – thin

Thicker – thinner

Thickest – thinnest