

ACTIVITY 2.16

Build It in Parts

Provide children with one type of material, such as connecting cubes or squares of colored paper. The task is to see how many different combinations for a particular number they can make using two parts. (If you wish, you can allow for more than two parts.) Each different combination can be displayed

on a small mat, such as a quarter-sheet of construction paper. Here are just a few ideas, each of which is illustrated in Figure 2.8.

- Use two-color counters such as lima beans spray painted on one side (also available in plastic).
- Make bars of connecting cubes. Make each bar with two colors. Keep the colors together.
- Color rows of squares on 1-inch grid paper.
- Make combinations using two dot strips—strips of poster board about 1 inch wide with stick-on dots. (Make lots of strips with from one to four dots and fewer strips with from five to ten dots.)
- Make combinations of “two-column strips.” These are cut from tagboard ruled in 1-inch squares. All pieces except the single squares are cut from two columns of the tagboard.

As you observe children working on the “Build It in Parts” activity, ask them to “read” a number sentence to go with each of their designs. Encourage children to read their designs to each other. Two or three children working together with the same materials may have quite a large number of combinations including lots of repeats.

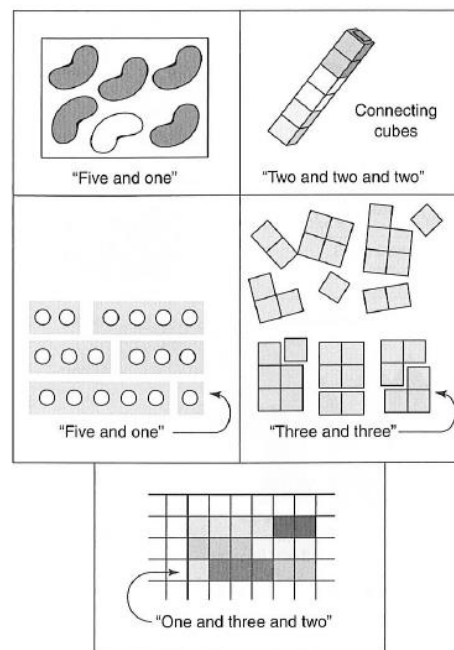


FIGURE 2.8
Assorted materials for building parts of 6.