



Glow-Stick Houses

Search for hidden glow sticks, count each color, and use a model to build a matching house. The glow turns quantities, colors, and shapes into part of the game.

Helps Your Child Grow



Emergent Mathematical Thinking

Finding a specified number of colored glow sticks and placing them to match a model gives your child practice counting and representing a simple shape and structure.



Vocabulary

Naming colors, numbers, shapes, and positions while building gives your child a meaningful setting for using familiar words.



What You'll Need

1. Several glow sticks in different colors



Find the Glow Sticks

Dim the room and use glow sticks to make a small model house. Hide matching groups of the same colors and quantities in different places. Invite your child to find the building materials and make a neighboring house like the model.

Observations

- Moves toward a visible glow and finds a hidden glow stick
- Begins searching after hearing how the game works

Tips

- Give each part of the model a clear color and quantity - for example, one green stick for the base and two pink sticks for the roof.
- Hide each group where a little glow remains visible. The light becomes a clue that building materials are nearby.



Count Each Group

Each time your child finds a group, ask, “What color are they? How many did you find?” They can count the sticks in their hands or line them up on the floor and point to each one.

Observations

- Counts the glow sticks in a group
- Uses words for colors or numbers during the game

Tips

- If counting is difficult, point to each glow stick and count slowly together.
- Around age three, missing or repeating a number while counting a small group is part of learning.
- If the color or number is incorrect, model the answer without interrupting: “These are two pink glow sticks.”



Build a Matching House

Once all the materials are found, build a house that matches the model. Copying every part is a challenge, so draw attention to the color and position of each stick and offer help when your child asks for it.

Observations

- Places glow sticks to make a house that matches the model
- Parks a toy car beside the house and pretends someone is moving in

Tips

- After building, bring in toy people or animals and let them “move into” the new house to extend the pretend play.
- Name the shapes that appear: “The roof looks like a triangle. This side looks like a square.”
- Use position words as your child builds: “Put this one on top” or “Place it on the left.”