

# CHANGES, CHANGES

## Changes, Changes

by Pat Hutchins (Macmillan)

Themes: Creative Thinking, Problem Solving

Running Time: 6 minutes, animated

### Summary

Changes, Changes begins with two wooden people building themselves a home with blocks. When one of the blocks catches on fire, the people use the blocks from the house to make a fire truck. Water sprays from the wooden hose of the truck to put out the fire. Unfortunately, the water does not stop the flowing from the hose, creating an ocean. In order to solve the problem, the wooden people take the fire truck apart and use the blocks to build a boat.

The people sail the ocean on the boat until they reach land. Once there, they reconstruct the blocks that formed the boat to build a car that will take them traveling. Next, they lay tracks and build a train from the blocks. Finally, the people end up where they started-- they construct a home again from the blocks used to make the train.

This is a wonderful story which holds the promise that any problem can be solved with a little creative thinking!

### Objectives

- Children will investigate problem-solving techniques
- Children will explore creative thinking
- Children will learn to read pictures

### Before Viewing Activities

Share the book, Changes, Changes with children.

Give children an opportunity to build blocks of all shapes and sizes. Encourage children to be as imaginative as possible while building with the blocks. Have children describe their block structures to their classmates. Then imagine what would happen if each child's block structure could move!

Give children several hypothetical situations that require problem-solving. For example, you might say: "Sarah was drawing at the chalkboard. Her last piece of chalk broke. Sarah wanted to finish her picture. What could she do?"

### After Viewing Activities

Have a small group of children work together to build something with blocks. Then have a second group of children take the structure apart and build something else using the same blocks. Continue this activity by forming small groups and having each group create something with the original blocks. Later, discuss all of the different things children were able to make using the same set of blocks.

Have a group of children build something with a small group of blocks. Cover the block structure with a large sheet or blanket. Then ask one child to describe the structure, without naming it, to the remaining children. Have children identify what the

block structure is from the child's description. When children guess correctly, remove the covering from the structure so that everyone can enjoy it. Continue the activity by allowing different groups of children to build with the blocks and having children take turns describing the creations.

Discuss how children felt about looking at a story without words. Ask: How was it different from others? Should words have been added? Why? Why not? Later, show children an interesting photograph or illustration. Encourage children to create stories from these visuals. Display the visuals and stories on a classroom wall. As you share each of the stories, emphasize how each child created a different story by "reading" something different into the picture.

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