

# "We are making a bowling alley"

One morning when we were in the senior toddler room, I noticed Liam, Kiley, Austin and Fallon, working diligently in the block area.

"What are you up to?" I asked the children.

"We're making a bowling alley," Kiley told me. "Me and Fallon were making it, but now they say they're making one too," she continued, looking a little sad.

"That's OK," I assured her. "After all, when you go to a real bowling alley how many lanes do they have?"

"Lots and lots!" Liam said. "Me and my daddy went bowling and there were so many bowling places and there were lots and lots of games!"

"They have 28 lanes- no 29." Fallon informed us. "Ours is like a rolling alley. This block is like a diving board; so it dives into the alley."

"This is the rocky locky. We go up and try to knock it over. Watch!" Liam said, as he rolled his block down the lane. "46 pins- I did it! There are lots at Kingswood right?"

"There are. How many pins were there when you went bowling?" I asked.

"Ten. And there was a triangle and there was ten."

"Yay! Mine went all the way to the door!" Kiley exclaimed. "We are seeing who can roll farther."

"Can I play too?" Jude asked.

"Sure, I'm going to watch," Liam decided.

Jude rolled the block and called out in excitement, "Yay!"

"Ok, It's Austin's turn," Liam told them.

Austin rolled the block and Liam yelled, "You win, you get a prize!"

"I got a prize!" Austin shouted. "A hug from you!"

He jumped on my lap and gave me a big squeeze. Austin may have won but I think I got the prize!

*Why this matters: The children are exploring concepts such as balance, pitch and velocity. They are taking turns and negotiating rules. They are using both fine and gross motor skills to build the lane and throw the ball respectively. They are using math principles such as distance, length and numeracy.*

