

Thank you to the CASL (Connecticut Association of School Librarians) Board of Directors for starting a loaner program for creative items. For the 2016-2017 school year, CASL piloted the program with Keva Planks. A set of 1000 planks rotated every two weeks to a different media center throughout CT. Take a look at the ideas for implementing “play” uses for Keva Planks across K-12. We added a second set of planks for the 2017-2018 year. Any questions, please reach out to: Sarah D

To order your own Keva Planks, contact Ken at: ken@kevaplanks.com

Elementary School	Middle/High School
My new school did not have Planks (2017-2018), so I introduced the loaner set for the opening of school. Instantly, my principal so the value and ordered the 1000 plank set for the school. All specialists stopped in and immediately saw the value in integrating this tool across content areas. Parents commented how excited their children were the first week of school and they were telling all about the planks! Here is how I introduce them for the first time with a parent letter and reflection sheet. Reflection is critical so build time in for it. (Greenwich Schools-Jane Martellino) https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1p9Z9hKVgpkj2Pd7A5G_csOF4uv0S3S32-MdItrP1Sek/edit?usp=sharing https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eXlM2lQQa2z1I2VzxfagvFZNhMfjip9SxwXh72IxKs/edit?usp=sharing With a 3rd grade class, we put the students in groups of 3 and gave them a tote bag filled with planks and said all groups need 100 planks and see what can you create with 100 planks. The teacher saw immediately how she gained informal formative assessment on math skills as she quickly videod the students explaining their grouping strategies for verifying they had 100 planks. The soft skills demonstrated or lack of were also recorded anecdotally for determining future instruction. And lastly, the reflection sheets for that grade included connecting to the IB Learner profiles we incorporate as an IB school--again, the reflection sheet responses gave the teacher great data/feedback to use for further discussions and creating experiences for the students. One session like this provides classroom teachers and other specialists with much insight into how valuable such hands-on, constructivist activities are for students and for assessing.- Jane Martellino	During our two week borrowing period, my math teachers and art teacher used the KEVA planks the most. In math classes the students were first given various challenges to get them familiar with using them. Afterwards, specific mathematical requirements were introduced to their creations. The bridges (see picture) they made were especially creative and actually sophisticated for the classes of freshmen that were assigned that task. I watched for a long time and the engagement was amazing. In addition, study hall students used them in the our MC Makerspace. Many students requested that I purchase a crate for future use. https://goo.gl/photos/7AYXxNqZU5GQ1xK96

Check out our kindergarten students exploring KEVA Planks after reading Not a Box and Not a Stick and then creating "Not a Plank." (Bethlehem ES) - Jane Martellino

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByDYbdOlsXrLdWU1WDVHR2IyaW8/view>

Our high school students are loving using these. One girl in study hall said to her friend, "Can you play with the blocks with me. They're so fun." An honors student put off doing math homework that was due the next period to use the KEVA planks instead. One of the best things was that girls were having just as much fun using them as the boys.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2aZWE_2EcIAX0I0YzZieFBXQms/view?usp=sharing

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2aZWE_2EcIATG5GZl1QzRkRTg/view?usp=sharing

K-5 Students explored KEVA Planks and tried some techniques from video instructions. <http://www.kevaplanks.com/instructions/>

<https://goo.gl/photos/qZapK2vVEn6hFUU19>

A Spanish teacher used them and had her students collaborate in Spanish. The Engineering class used them, as did the Science Club, the Construction class and several Special Ed classes.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzOG9JAvqSgyNTVoYTFqdGQ00EU/view?usp=sharing>

K-4 students had a great time exploring with the planks in our Makerspace. During week 1, the youngest students practiced writing their names with the planks and creating 2D & 3D images from the KEVA planks website. The older grades attempted to build the tallest tower possible using only one KEVA plank as its base. All students viewed the video of the world record KEVA plank tower from the website. During week 2, students tried creating marble runs with the planks (I found a few examples on youtube to show them first). We were sad to see them go...but our Student Council has offered to buy a set for our library. Thank you so much for this opportunity. ~L. Armstrong

<https://animoto.com/play/0C4zkSPwmVSqS0bXX50VqQ>

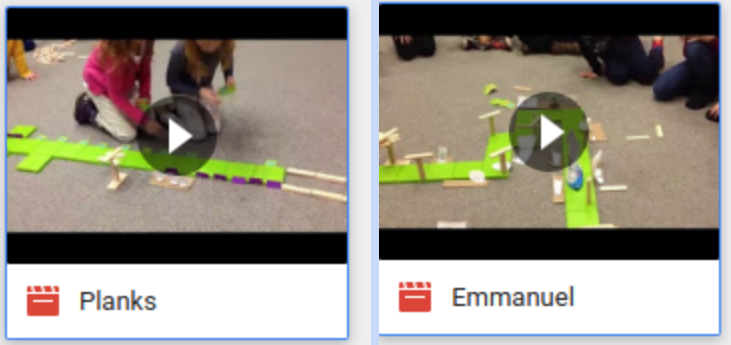
100th Day of School Challenge. I brought all 50 3rd graders into the LMC with their teachers. Students were divided into 10 groups with 5 participants in each group. They had a challenge to see what they could make with 100 planks and incorporate a mystery item which was preselected by two 5th grade LMV volunteers (who also made the video). Their first step was to verify as efficiently

as possible that
thhttps://mail.sheltonpublicschools.org/owa/redir.aspx?SURL=3azJStm5tkifaBei4Yv7uk_ro6oZA9ON82r9xLopTAv_7Jp3OUzUCGgAdAB0AHAAcwA6AC8ALwBhAG4AaQBtAG8AdABvAC4AYwBvAG0ALwBwAGwAYQB5AC8AMABDADQAegBrAFMAUAB3AG0AVgBTAGcAUwAwAGIAWABYADUAMABWAHEAUQA.&URL=https%3a%2f%2ffanimo.com%2fplay%2f0C4zkSPwmVSgS0bXX50VqQey did indeed have 100 planks to work with--this proved to be a quick assessment for teachers to see how students used grouping strategies with automaticity.

(Bethlehem ES- Jane Martellino)

KEVA PLANKS + Literacy + Coding = LEARNING

Just like “app smashing”, we like to do “toy smashing”. Students combined robotic mice with Keva Planks and a great text: Emmanuel’s Dream in order to retell this powerful story. (Bethlehem ES- Jane Martellino)



First Graders

Third Graders

PK to 2 students had an amazing time with KEVA planks! During the first week all students had the opportunity for some free exploration. We saw all kinds of structures: 2-D, 3-D, several kids tried a Jenga-type game.

During week 2 we did more directed activities:

PreK: Their learning goal is letter recognition. We used the planks to make letters of their names or any letters of the alphabet. We tried laying down and standing up letters.

K: We read the Three Little Pigs and then built a better home for the pigs. An idea was to also bring in some kind of wind source: handheld fan or hairdryer, to see if they could withstand wind, but I didn't try this.

1: Tried the KEVA talk challenge where partners tried to build the same model using only spoken directions. This was a real challenge for them and I only did it with a few classes. Instead opted for the grade 2 activity, which was a huge hit

with all...

2: We just completed a big research unit on trees, so it seemed appropriate to do the KEVAtree challenge. This involves standing 3 planks like a trunk, then one at a time laying a plank on top to make a tree structure. Instead of having it a win/ lose game as suggested in the guide, we worked to make the tallest tree possible while cooperating as a team, and challenge ourselves to build a taller structure each time it falls. This was very successful.

I then shared with students some of the photos in the guide to give ideas for building new structures: different shaped bases, roofs, bridges, 2D structures, and gave additional time to explore. The new ideas really expanded the range of designs. We also ended with a “gallery walk” so students could check out each other’s designs.

Gr. 2 Enrichment group: KEVAcoaster. Used the ping pong balls to make roller coasters. Showed a couple of examples on YouTube part way through the building to give more ideas. They were fabulous! We had drop designs, long and narrow, turning corners, steps. Kids LOVED it!

I had teachers request to borrow during time slots I wasn’t using them. Very high level of engagement for all kids. We want our own now! :)

I started each session with ground rules as well: respecting others’ structures, treating the borrowed materials with respect, etc... and they did great. Clean-up is indeed fast and easy as they claim!

KEVAcoasters: <https://t.co/BxIRSUD1re>

KEVAtree: <pic.twitter.com/t0ARAvP72h>

(Moses Y. Beach Elementary School, Anne Porier)

Regional School District 13 - Brewster & Lyman Elementary Schools
Jenny Lussier

I used these planks with PreK - 4 students. I also had a math specialist, science specialist and speech/language teacher come in and observe. Several classroom teachers borrowed them as well. They were all extremely excited about the possibilities that these planks provided. I loved that the planks could be used in such a variety of settings.

We were able to get a set for each elementary school through a community grant program. I will be working with the math and science specialists to begin to utilize them not just in the library, but as teaching tools. We are especially eager

to see how they support the new NGSS standards.

Week 1: Students used the 1st week to simply explore with the blocks. It was amazing to watch and see where they went with them. Some students automatically began to build towers of all different kinds. Some created letters, layouts for buildings, and designs with the planks.

Week 2: I challenged them all with the 7 plank challenge - 1 plank can touch the ground/table and then they need to build the longest (horizontal) structure they can. Our longest was a 2nd grade girl who made it to 36 cm! Many children tried the challenge but were very happy to keep doing free exploration.

I did not have them do any written reflection, but at the end of each session, we did stop and reflect on the learning that had taken place. The students were thrilled to know that we would have a set at our school!

[Click here for pictures/video.](#)

Cook Hill School - Wallingford, CT PreK-Gr 2

With my regular specials classes:

PreK

- read Corduroy last visit before the planks arrived
- made beds and stores for the book Corduroy
- made our names

Kindergarten

- read Hibernation Station
- made structures to help animals hibernate (caves, logs, holes under ground)



1st grade

- read The Story of Ferdinand in prep for the movie coming out
- made the bullfighting arena
- challenged to make it oval and high enough to fit many people in the stands



2nd grade

- read Iggy Peck, Architect

-made famous buildings and bridges they were familiar with



In collaboration when teachers came in:

2D & 3D shapes to support math curriculum

houses for the 3 Little Pigs

ramps for forces of motion unit in science

Bridges and boats for the Gingerbread man

Brookside School, Norwalk

Grades Pre-K-5

We had such a great time with the Keva Planks! I alternate library with computer/technology time so I planned to have 2 rotations with the Keva planks during our 3 weeks. Every class got to work with them twice which was great. Preschool only comes once every 8 days so I made sure each of them had 1 day with them. I offered them to the teachers to borrow during the 4 days we weren't using them but no one took the offer but at least all of the kids had time with them. I used some of the ideas from here and also paired with collaborative projects we were working on across the grade levels.

PK, K, 1 Week 1

We have been researching Animals so we read *William's Winter Nap* by Linda Ashman and discussed Animal Habitats and then built habitats for stuffed animals.

2nd Week 1

We have been working on researching Community Helpers so they built workplaces for the helpers they researched, I grouped them by community helper.

K,1, 2 Week 2 we read *Rosie Revere,*

Engineer and built contraptions using the ping pong balls.

3,4,5 Week 1 we explored the planks and some of the classes went more in depth based on some class projects. One class just read *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis, so they built their own wardrobes and their own Narnia. Some of the classes attempted the challenge cards. 5th Grade recently worked on a collaborative Tornado project so we built their tornadoes.

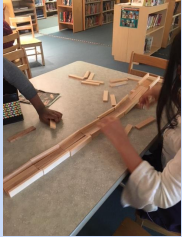
3, 4, 5 Week 2 we watched video of the Olympic Luge and built our own Luge tracks!

We also have an afterschool STEM class that used the planks.

Thank you so much for this opportunity - it was terrific and paired well with our district STEM project unit which all classes are working on.

I have a zillion pictures but here are just a few!

Luge



Luge



Narnia



Narnia



Animal Habitats

