



Review and Giveaway! CitiBlocs



At a playgroup last week, one of the moms remarked that she was going to try to get away from all the character-licensed, bright and flashy electronic toys this Christmas. She wanted to make a return to more traditional, open-ended toys for her three children. I was more than happy to tell her about the new CitiBlocs my kids have been playing with the last month or so. When I was first asked to review CitiBlocs, I knew that my children weren't going to be old enough to build some of the amazing things that are possible, but I was very curious about how Nadia would use the blocks. I've loved watching Nadia incorporate

these seemingly simple, yet ingenious blocks into her play! Click on [Read more...](#) for my full review of CitiBlocs and for details about how to win a starter set for your kids.



Fun Factor **** - CitiBlocs are not your typical building blocks. They are very simple wooden planks about 5 inches long x 1 inch wide x a little over 1/4 inches thick. Each block is precision cut to be exactly the same as the next which means you'll never run out of a crucial style of block. CitiBlocs are marketed with some pictures of some of the coolest structures you've ever seen built with blocks, but the way Nadia has played with the blocks has been a little different. She and I built a high-rise for her Littlest Pet Shop, a very basic structure, but functional nonetheless. One day, I found her throwing the blocks down the steps to the landing because she was "feeding the ducks." Maybe a little noisy, but creative. On the evening after her first Royals game, she used the red and blue blocks to create a

baseball field with 9 Royals players and 9 Mariners players. This was all her own idea and her dad was in heaven! Right now, she's sitting across from me at the table spreading the blocks out to represent the land masses breaking apart in prehistoric times before dinosaurs evolved or converted, as she just told me, into birds. Finally, a couple of days ago, she used the blocks to build a house for her LPS critters all by herself. CitiBlocs stand up amazingly well on their ends, and getting them to balance is excellent practice for honing Nadia's fine motor skills, too. I love it that even though Nadia can't build the elaborate structures that are someday going to be possible thanks to the clever design of CitiBlocs, she has still found ways to not just build with them, but to incorporate them into her play in other ways!



Here is the very basic, but very functional Littlest Pet Shop high rise. It lasted until Isaac woke up and deemed it unsafe and promptly demolished it!

We have both the basic natural set and the red and blue set which makes 106 blocks total. They all fit in a cute little basket I picked up at Target with space to spare. My point being, they don't take up a lot of space like other building blocks we have, and I don't have to worry about these blocks being scattered about the house. They are safe and non-toxic and while they are marketed as being for kids 3+, I personally worry as much about my 18 month old playing with them as I do some of the other toys we have around. When your kids are ready to really start building, you can even download a building ideas and instructions guide. And, in case you're wondering, while 106 blocks sounds like a lot, they can actually be picked up amazingly quickly.

Here Nadia is building a "house." I loved watching her stack the blocks up on their ends. It took a lot of concentration, and I was very impressed with how patient she was.

Materials/Durability **** - As I mentioned, CitiBlocs are non-toxic. They are made out of New Zealand Radiata Pine, precision cut and then stained using water-based paints. They comply with both the CPSIA and the European Standards of Safety. CitiBlocs is committed to making a safe toy while also using green manufacturing practices as well. If you're looking to feel good about the toys you buy, I think that you will find CitiBlocs to meet those standards. Each CitiBloc is pretty light, but they feel very sturdy. They aren't going to be easily broken in two and I'm confident that these blocks will last through years of play. Ours have been fed to more than one flock of ducks and are no worse for the wear, even after bouncing off the tiled floors!



And finally, the baseball diamond. I couldn't get the last red "player" into the picture. Notice the coaster that is home plate and Sizzles the mascot. Yes, I know that there are normally on 9 players on the field at a time, but she had a lot of fun creating this with her dad!



Price *** - A basic starter set of 52 pieces is only \$15. You can also save by buying 100 piece, 200 piece and 300 piece sets, too. Two 52 piece sets would be \$30, but the 100 piece set is only \$27.50. Since we are not building truly elaborate structures at this point, I feel like 100 pieces is more than sufficient, but when the kids really get into building later, I know we will want to have a bigger set. And remember, they don't take up much space. There is no reason to be scared of having to store 100, 200 or even 300 blocks!

Overall Rating *1/2** - CitiBlocs may be new, but they are well on their way to being a classic, at least in our house. Their simple nature doesn't limit my children's imaginations. I look forward to someday soon being able to start building our first real CitiBlocs structure, but for now, I'm happy just watching them become food for the dinosaurs and ducks, or shifting land masses, or baseball players. I know it seems early, but if you are already starting to make that list of ideas for the holidays, don't overlook CitiBlocs. You can buy them directly from the [CitiBlocs website](#)

and earn CitiBucks to use on future purchases, or they are also available from our affiliate [Amazon.com](#) for just a little less with free shipping on orders over \$25.

Did you think that I forgot about the giveaway? CitiBlocs is giving away a winner's choice set of either the [52 block set](#) or the [54 block red and blue set](#).

74 Comments

peg42 said...

I learned that Citiblocs are safe and nontoxic. It's an ideal educational toy, with no mess, glue or snaps. This really sounds like a fun toy. Thanks so much.

September 8, 2009 7:15 PM

Badly Drawn Girl said...

I spent some time looking at the gallery photos. The snake was amazing. I love how many creative ways the blocks can be used. These are wonderful for helping kids express themselves.

September 8, 2009 9:57 PM

agordon10 said...

love that they are non-toxic, my kids are always putting the megabloks in their mouths

September 9, 2009 6:02 AM

sweepmom said...

I like the Asian Towers.

September 9, 2009 6:05 AM

lsfish said...

CITIBLOCS are made of light weight pine handy for all ages and for creative construction.

September 9, 2009 7:52 AM

clynsg said...

I like the fact that since they do not interlock, the builder has to use the concepts of gravity and balance to build the really rather complex structures that are possible.

clynsg at yahoo.com

September 9, 2009 8:35 AM

Tracey said...

I like that they are toys that are fueled by a child's imagination. The simplest toys are the best toys.

traymona[at]aol.com

September 9, 2009 8:57 AM

cpullum said...

I love the 1000 Block box

Huge family size!!!

We could do this on our Friday Movie night instead! This could bring the family together!

Carla

cpullum(at)yahoo(dot)com

September 9, 2009 9:29 AM

mmentor said...

sign me up

September 9, 2009 10:01 AM

cdziuba said...

I learned this: CITIBLOCS are not chemically treated! 100 % natural New Zealand Radiata Pine CPSIA and ASTM Certified ! SAFE and environmentally responsible wooden blocks.

September 9, 2009 11:17 AM

chrissyb said...

I learned CITIBLOCS are not chemically treated and environmentally responsible wooden blocks.

transamws602(at)yahoo(dot)com

September 9, 2009 12:14 PM

mogrill said...

LOVE that it urges kids to use their imagination Thanks for the chance.

mogrill@comcast.net

September 9, 2009 12:40 PM

Terra H. said...

My son would enjoy this. I learned that there is no glue, no snaps, and no small parts involved. One structure I like is the jeep.

partymix25(at)hotmail(dot)com

September 9, 2009 12:57 PM

degood said...

I like the castle that is the last picture in the gallery

September 9, 2009 1:13 PM

Chris said...

I learned that "The unique size and shape of Citiblocs allows you to build structures that are simply not possible with other building sets."

Cool, my boys would LOVE these!

kissyjensen at gmail dot com

September 9, 2009 3:13 PM

cstironkat said...

I learned that there is no limit to what you can build, it only takes imagination.

September 9, 2009 5:51 PM

Stephanie said...

love the snake - so cool - wonder if it is hard to make

tvollowitz at aol dot com

September 9, 2009 7:32 PM

Stephanie said...

I really like the fact that they are non-toxic and with a kiddo like mine thats a very good thing!

thegrants(at)live(dot)com

September 9, 2009 7:53 PM

socmama said...

I love the little airplanes! Thanks!

September 9, 2009 9:09 PM

fyjules said...

The blocks are made from Radiata Pine from certified renewable forests in New Zealand. I like that.

I

September 9, 2009 10:59 PM

Linda said...

I like how there is not glue, no snaps, and no small parts and are good for pre-schoolers on up!

lgrieser(at)sbcglobal(dot)net

September 10, 2009 1:12 PM

roseh2o19 said...

non toxic

September 10, 2009 3:56 PM

Heather M said...

I love the Castle. I would have fun trying to build that!!

hmahan_0529 @yahoo dot com

September 11, 2009 12:21 AM

blabla3269 said...

love that they are non toxic I have some moulters here

September 11, 2009 7:38 AM

amweeks said...

Wow...their gallery is wonderful and full of ideas! I love the train on top of the bridge! (#7)

September 11, 2009 12:28 PM

Mia J. said...

I like that there is no limit to what can be created. My favorite thing was the train on the bridge.

September 11, 2009 3:28 PM

sibabe64 said...

I learned CITIBLOCKS are not chemically treated and environmentally responsible wooden blocks. I like the castle

September 12, 2009 2:43 PM

Katie said...

The snake is amazing!

katiekarr at gmail dot com

September 12, 2009 9:24 PM

Fionen said...

I learned that they are safe and non-toxic. My favorite structure is the pagoda. These blocks really do encourage creativity.

fionen_ftw(at)fionen(dot)com

September 13, 2009 2:58 AM

Kari said...

These look really fun, my son is 6 and right now his whole world is Legos. Sometimes I wish he'd venture into more eco-friendly blocks and these look wonderful! I love that they are educational and they are non toxic. I am for sure adding these to his holiday list!

September 14, 2009 8:11 AM

Shelly said...

love the Dragon and the train

September 14, 2009 1:56 PM

2kidsblogger said...

Asian Towers and the dragon are cool!

thanks for sponsoring this.

2kidsblogger(at)gmail(dot)com

September 14, 2009 8:45 PM

Renee G said...

I learned that Most in stock orders received by us before 2:00pm Eastern Time are shipped the same business day.

rsgandinetti@yahoo(Dot)com
September 14, 2009 11:46 PM
jennem said...

They have lesson plans on the website, and you can upload yours too.

Jennifer, jennem22 at yahoo dot com
September 15, 2009 11:10 AM
erma said...

I love that they are non-toxic.
erma.hurtt@sbcglobal.net
September 15, 2009 12:41 PM
anne s. said...

Every product we sell comes with a 100% Guarantee...now thats a good company standing behind its products!
September 15, 2009 12:49 PM
ellie said...

I'm happy that they are non-toxic. My 4 year old would love these, but his 19 month old brother puts everything in his mouth. Thanks for the giveaway.
eswright18 at gmail dot com
September 15, 2009 1:34 PM
Egare1 said...

I love the snake! It looks like it should fall apart, I'm very impressed it doesn't!
September 15, 2009 1:52 PM
Sonya said...

I love that they have a 100% Satisfaction Guarantee!
September 15, 2009 2:32 PM
Happi Shopr said...

can't get over the snake and the train on the bridge - just amazing. looks like a lot of fun too. trinitygsd at yahoo dot com
September 15, 2009 3:11 PM
paula h said...

I learned that they are perfectly balanced. The snake is really cool.

hafner611{AT}gmail{DOT}com
September 15, 2009 3:45 PM
Mommy T said...

I learned that all the blocks are the same size/shape, so there's no fear of losing/having enough connector pieces.
September 15, 2009 3:55 PM
georgie c said...

I learned that Every product they sell comes with a 100% Guarantee. Thats pretty neat!
electricisland(at)gmail.com
September 15, 2009 4:22 PM
Molly K said...

My favorite structure is the Pirate Ship. My boys would love to build it.
September 15, 2009 4:42 PM
missrantsypants said...

Citiblocs are safe and nontoxic!

clarkmurdock@yahoo.com
September 15, 2009 7:27 PM
Gabriel J. said...

They are environmentally responsible wooden blocks.
September 15, 2009 8:50 PM
Jen said...

Wow, I learned a lot of neat things about Citiblocs; they look like a neat product. I like that they are non-toxic, lightweight, and all the same size and shape.

footejennifer at hotmail.com

September 15, 2009 8:57 PM
1993wel said...

I like the Asian Towers!
September 16, 2009 2:07 AM
ddddiva said...

I learned tons- my fave being that they have a 1000 piece set which would be perfect for Gram's house she has the grands and great grands over all the time and this way there would be enough for everyone.

September 16, 2009 8:06 AM
kylie8cake said...

They are non-toxic and lightweight. My daughter would love these!

kylie8cake(at)gmail(dot)com
September 16, 2009 8:32 AM
mail4rosey said...

The train on a bridge was my favorite structure. Thank you!

msurosey@yahoo.com
September 16, 2009 10:31 AM
amyd said...

They are non toxic&I like the snake

ardelong2(at)gmail(dot)com
September 16, 2009 11:22 AM
Tiffany819 said...

Someone built an 18 wheeler truck that I found a picture of in the gallery. It is awesome! I doubt we would have skills like that! lol Thanks.

tiffanys819 at gmail dot com
September 16, 2009 11:38 AM
Julie said...

Citiblocs offers a 10% discount to teachers and education professionals on their products

aunteegem@yahoo.com
September 16, 2009 12:44 PM
Leslie S. said...

My son wants to build the semi in teh gallery.Thanks!
September 16, 2009 12:45 PM
Tricia316 said...

I love that they are eco friendly. They aren't chemically treated. Good to have with pets who like to pick up toys!
Tricia
hockeygalnc@hotmail.com
September 16, 2009 1:11 PM
Miranda said...

Citiblocs are safe and nontoxic!
September 16, 2009 2:25 PM
Rock Star Ma said...

I liked the huge(and pretty) tower the kids in the red shirts made under the gallery photos.
September 16, 2009 2:35 PM
chaipo said...

I like the fact that they do fundraisers for schools.

Citiblocs is a great idea!

chaipoak@gmail.com
September 16, 2009 3:12 PM
Tylerpants said...

I learned that Citiblocs are made of Radiata Pine from certified renewable forests in New Zealand!
tylerpants(at)gmail.com
September 16, 2009 3:13 PM
naynays1 said...

They are non-toxic and lightweight. I really like the train on the bridge. Thanks
September 16, 2009 3:27 PM
dvice said...

I learned that they are not chemically treated! 100 % natural New Zealand Radiata Pine CPSIA and ASTM Certified
September 16, 2009 4:17 PM
kngmckellar said...

I learned that CITIBLOCS are suitable for all kinds of kids with all kinds of strengths and interests, facilitating social interaction as well as individual progress and play.

kngmckellar@hotmail.com
September 16, 2009 5:20 PM
kathy pease said...

There are no snaps or screws or connectors and best of all NO MESS ! It's all about Gravity and balance. All you need is a flat surface and a handful of blocks to Build ANYTHING.
September 16, 2009 6:10 PM
Sweeter the berry said...

I like the castle and I like that it is non-toxic and my kids can have fun building great things.
September 16, 2009 6:27 PM
sherri419 said...

The train on the tracks was really cute! I love things that challenge a child's imagination. Thanks for the chance!
sherri419 at gmail dot com
September 16, 2009 7:05 PM
FDP 4 Life said...

Kids can exercise a wide variety of skills with unique CITIBLOCS – math and measure, science and design, problem solving and physics ! Build alone or in groups!
September 16, 2009 7:30 PM
Tiffany said...

I learned they are unique in the way of building things that you cannot build with other blocks.
mckenziemother@hotmail.com
September 16, 2009 7:57 PM
lace said...

The sailing ship design is amazing. I'd love to let the little ones imaginations come alive with a set of these blocks
September 16, 2009 9:26 PM
Gianna said...

I love the train on the bridge :)
September 16, 2009 10:48 PM
trixpixel said...

I learned that Citiblocs are not chemically treated so they're safe & non-toxic! trixpixel(at)gmail.com
September 16, 2009 10:48 PM
masonsgranny59 said...

I learned that Citiblocs are safe and nontoxic and lots of fun 2 boot:).
September 16, 2009 10:51 PM
tina said...

they are safe and non toxic my kids would love playing with these and i would feel good about them playing with them thanks eaglesforjack@gmail.com
September 16, 2009 11:51 PM
lilyk said...

I learned that the company is located in Baldwin, New York.
September 17, 2009 1:04 AM