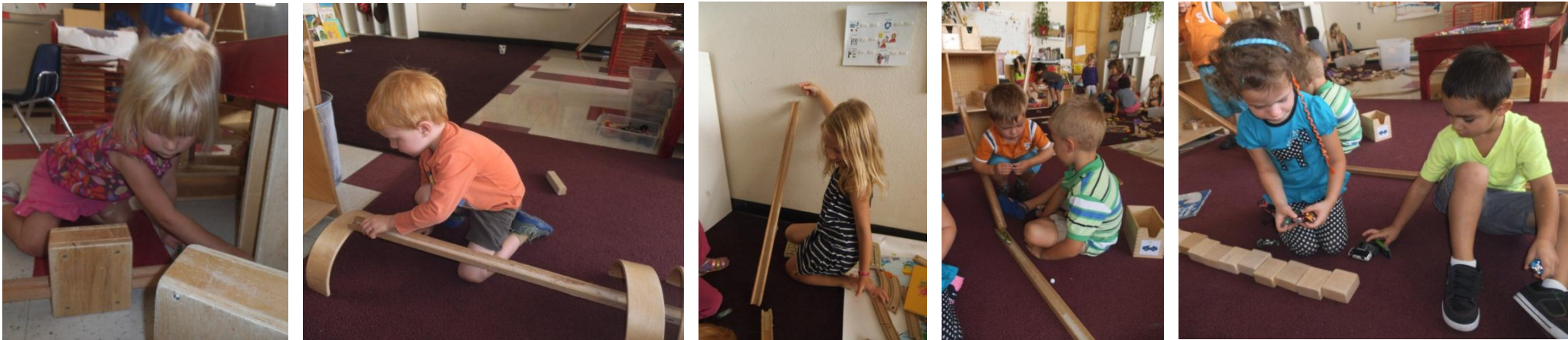




A group of children play with train tracks on a world map. Young children love things that they can move and control. I love train tracks because children get an opportunity to work together to build a large track. I added the world map to expose children to geography concepts as well as features of maps and how to interpret maps. I want children to know that maps are tools they can use to learn about our world.

Geography for young children starts with learning positional and directional words. A simple way to help your child learn positional words is by giving them direction such as: "Please put your toys **in** the basket **on top** of the table **behind you**." For more ideas to help your child learn geography concepts [CLICK HERE](#).



Children use wooden molding and blocks to create ramps and pathways for their marbles. Through this type of play, they are investigating physical science concepts of force and motion as they develop scientific inquiry skills. Inquiry skills involve making an observation, asking a question based on the observation, forming a hypothesis, conducting an experiment and then accepting or rejecting the hypothesis based on the experiment. Children can practice scientific inquiry over and over. For example, children begin to notice that the marble rolls farther when the incline of the ramp is larger. This observation leads many children to experiment with the angle of incline to make their marbles roll farther and faster. They can immediately see the results of each experiment and conduct a new one right away.

Mathematics supports science investigation and indeed the two are often intertwined. For example, children must use spatial reasoning to figure out how to position and align the ramps. They use beginning measuring skills to see which marble traveled faster and furthest.

Erin