

株式会社 タカラトミー

For Immediate Release





March 9, 2021

Challenge the University of Tokyo brain using ten competencies!

Supervised by "QuizKnock," a team led by University of Tokyo graduate Takushi Izawa Play with ten different mind sports that make you beat your brains out

3D block game "Smart Blocks10"

To be launched on Thursday, April 22, 2021

TOMY Company, Ltd.

TOMY Company, Ltd. (Representative Director, President & COO: Kazuhiro Kojima, headquarters: Katsushikaku, Tokyo) will release the 3D block game "Smart Blocks10" (SRP: JPY 3,278/tax included) on Thursday, April 22 at toy stores, toy sections of department stores and mass retailers nationwide, online stores, certain bookstores, and TOMY Company's official online store "Takara Tomy Mall" (<u>takaratomymall.jp</u>), etc.

This product is <u>a 3D block game, supervised by "QuizKnock" (*)</u>, a team of intellects from the University of Tokyo, led by a graduate of the same university, Takushi Izawa, who appears on many quiz shows as a TV personality. You can play a total of ten different games including "CHOKKAKU" (a tower game in which players stack up blocks on their corners like a tower) and "JINTORI" (a strategy game in which players try to expand their bases on a large sheet). Some games require additional items included in the product, such as cards and sheets. Different competencies will be required for each game. Players can play the game using ten different competencies, including "calculation," "decisiveness," and "spatial perception," as well as "logical thinking" and "cooperativeness." The games may be enjoyed alone or with others, and the product is fit for all generations, either as an educational toy that make you beat your brains out while playing, or as a party game that will liven up the communication among families and friends.



View of QuizKnock members playing with the product

In planning this product, we requested "QuizKnock," a media that fuses entertainment and intellect, to supervise the development, because we were inspired by their concept of **"Fun and Learning Go Together."** In adjusting the rules of each game and game balance as well as setting the competencies used in each game, the "University of Tokyo brains" of QuizKnock members were utilized to their fullest extent.

<u>QuizKnock's comment</u>: Hi everyone! We're QuizKnock. We worked together with TOMY Company to come up with ten different games so you can all enjoy! Each of them will make you beat your brains out, so we hope you will play them repeatedly with your families!

<u>A series of product introduction videos will be released successively on "QuizKnock" YouTube channel from</u> <u>5:30 p.m. on March 9!</u>

URL for a video in QuizKnock YouTube channel: youtu.be/pihu3_ZqmUg

(*) What is QuizKnock? QuizKnock is a media that fuses entertainment and intellect, managed mainly by Takushi Izawa, a quiz champion of the University of Tokyo. With the concept of "learning that begins with fun," the media publishes daily articles and videos that will inspire the readers and viewers to "learn" something.

Ten different mind sports using 3D blocks

The product includes a total of 40 blocks in ten shapes and four colors (blue, yellow, pink, and green), a die, and sheets and cards to be used for each game.



The games may be played alone or with others. Players can enjoy the games that make them beat their brains out, using the ten competencies of calculation, imagination, spatial perception, decisiveness, cooperativeness, logical thinking, concentration, inspiration, sense of balance, and quick wit.



- (1). CHOKKAKU: a game of balance in which players stack up blocks on their corners like a tower (concentration/sense of balance)
- (2). CHOTEN: a game of balance in which players stack up blocks at the top of a tower (concentration/sense of balance)
- (3). **PITTARI:** a cooperative game in which players aim to build the highest tower possible without sticking out from the two by two area (sense of balance/cooperativeness)
- (4). **KENSETSU: a game of balance in which players build a tower with cards and blocks** (concentration/sense of balance)
- (5). ATTA!: a mind sport in which players find the right blocks as fast as they can and compete for how fast they can make the shapes as instructed (spatial perception/quick wit)
- (6). JINTORI: A strategy game in which players try to expand their bases on a large sheet (spatial perception/imagination/logical thinking)
- (7). **PUZZLE:** a mind sport in which players compete for how fast they can make the shapes drawn on **cards** (spatial perception/inspiration/quick wit)
- (8). COUNT: a mind sport in which players guess the number of cubes used in shapes made of several blocks (spatial perception/calculation)
- (9). KAKOI: a mind sport in which players put up barriers using five blocks with the aim of winning as many points as possible (calculation/decisiveness/imagination)
- (10).**TEPPENTORI:** a strategy game in which players stack up three levels of blocks and compete for the number of cubes visible when looked from above (spatial perception · imagination · logical thinking)



DEBRecommendation from Toshiyuki Shiomi, professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo

"Smart Blocks10" is a new type of analog game, with which children can nurture a competency to form threedimensional shapes and the fundamentals of geometry that will lead to "mathematical competency," while playing fun games.

Through repeated playing that combines ten kinds of differently-shaped 3D blocks in a variety of ways, you can nurture important fundamentals for learning mathematics without realizing it, including "the competency to visualize three-dimensional shapes in head," which is difficult to nurture in daily lives. Anticipating outcomes and using imagination to play the games will develop creativity and ingenuity, also nurturing the fundamentals for learning subjects other than mathematics. By playing the ten types of games repeatedly, it is expected that children will develop logical thinking and judgment. This will also serve as a training to foster "computational thinking*," which has been an issue at schools.

I hope many children will grow up with expertise in mathematics and programming in the future.

* A competency to logically think about what kind of combinations of movements are required, how best to combine the symbols that correspond to each movement, and how the combinations of the symbols should be improved to more accurately achieve the intended activities, in order to achieve a series of intended activities. Excerpt from "Guide to Programming Education at Elementary Schools (Third Edition)" by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

[Product Outline] "Smart Blocks10" SRP: JPY 3,278 (tax included) Launch Date in Japan: Thursday, April 22, 2021 Recommended Age: 6 years and up Package Contents: 40 blocks (10 types × blue, yellow, green, pink), 40 cards, 1 die, stickers for the die, 1 sheet for TEPPENTORI and PITTARI, 4 sheets for KAKOI, 1 sheet for JINTORI, instruction manual Dimensions: Approx. W 115 × H 250 × D 100 mm (package) Sales Target: 100,000 units Sales Channels: Toy stores, toy sections of department stores/mass retailers throughout Japan, online stores, selected bookstores, TOMY Company's official online store "Takara Tomy Mall" (takaratomymall.jp), etc.

Copyright: © TOMY

Official Website: www.takaratomy.co.jp/products/block10