



Tye Williams, 6, and Nate Williams, 9, at Bricks 4 Kidz at Erina. Picture: Mark Scott

BUILDING BLOCKS OF EDUCATION

Geraldine Cardozo

IT IS a lesson no child can grumble about - Lego is now making its way into the classroom.

Toddlers to teenagers are being urged to get creative with Lego and there are in-school and after-school workshops popping up all over the Central Coast.

"It's all about learning through play, and also working on those STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) key learning areas which have been identified by educators across Australia to enhance creative thinking, imagination and problem solving" Bricks 4 Kidz Central Coast owner Briony Britt said.

Mrs Britt is running workshops in several Coast schools and is holding school holiday sessions next week at Erina and Gosford.

Nine-year-old Nate Williams, from North Avoca, is a regular at the Bricks 4 Kidz after-school workshop, and says the best thing is "building spaceships and Minecraft creations".

Meanwhile his younger brother Tye, 6, likes coming up with his own designs.

The boys' mum Vanessa Lyne said the Lego lessons help teach patience and sharing.

"They're great for Nate because he's not particularly sporty, so this gives him a different interest. And it's also good for Tye in developing his fine motor skills and also takes them both away from their iPads and lets them play quietly together," she said.

Mrs Britt said the children also learn about subjects as they play.

"We plan the workshops to interact with the curriculum, so for example if they're learning about energy we might make windmills or if they're reading about

Workshop details



» Bricks City workshop at The Emu School 17/310 The Entrance Road (opposite NBN): Young engineers will create a new Lego City building and racing custom built vehicles, as well as completing mosaic builds and motorised models. When: Friday, April 22, 2pm to 4pm. Where: The Emu School. Cost: \$15 Bookings: www.bricks4kidz.com.au

» Lego building workshop at Gosford RSL: Children aged five to 12 get to work in small groups to build projects using Bricks 4 Kidz model plans. They also get to make creations of their own during our creative play periods. Parent or guardian must stay on club premises during the session. When: Wednesday April 20, 2pm to 4pm. Cost: \$14. Bookings: Gosford RSL, 4323 2311

are popular with girls as well as boys, with different levels of activities according to their age.

"For preschool and kindy kids we have Lego Duplo bricks, while there are Technic Lego kits for older children and we will be introducing a robotics program soon too," she said.

For details of after-school and in-school workshop times and locations, go to bricks4kidz.com.au.

Did you know?

The role of Lego in education was given a boost last year, when boffins at Cambridge University in the UK appointed its first Professor of Lego.

The don, who was given the official title Lego Professorship of Play in Education, Development and Learning, is in charge of

make windmills or if they're reading about space we might make lunar rovers, robots and satellites," she said.

Mrs Britt said the structured sessions

Development and Learning, is in charge of researching how playing with the plastic bricks can impact on youngsters' development.