



Building With Recycled Materials

Goal: Children build with a variety of materials and explore their properties. They will also build a structure for a specific purpose.

What's needed: Recycled/found materials such as shoeboxes, paper towel tubes, paper cups, straws, cereal boxes, clean yogurt containers and lids, etc. Also provide paper, scissors, tape and glue for joining the materials.

1. Display the variety of materials and talk about them. Compare and discuss the attributes of each material such as strength, flexibility and weight.
 2. Ask children what they would like to build. Ideas might include a fire truck, a garage, or a house for a small toy. Possibilities are unlimited!
 3. Allow children time to explore the materials and test some ideas. It will be helpful to have extra adult helpers for the construction part when materials get taped or glued together.
 4. Encourage children to talk about what they have done:
- Tell me about your project. Why did you choose this material to build your ____?**
5. Take photos of children as they work and of the finished projects.

Discovery Center

What's needed: "Scrounge" materials for building.

Ask families to bring shoeboxes, paper towel tubes, clean yogurt containers, paper cups—any item that can be used to build.

Set up your building materials on a table and challenge families to build every time they visit the library. It's fun to build with "scrounge" materials: families can bring their structures home!