



HELLO PARENTS,

Building and stacking is the best way for young children to learn early math and engineering skills, discover laws of physics, engage in problem-solving, and enhance their creativity. Playing with a variety of building materials helps children develop self-confidence and encourages their independent thinking. Manipulating blocks and other building objects enhances children's hand-eye coordination and promotes decision-making. In this newsletter, you will find different activities that will engage your child in creative building and learning.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

STACKING PAPER TOWEL ROLLS

MATERIALS:

- Paper towel holder
- Paper towel rolls cut into smaller rings, or shower curtain rings

DIRECTIONS:

- Place paper towel rings in a small container.
- Show your child how to stack them onto paper towel holder and encourage them to do the same.
- If your baby is still putting everything in their mouth, use shower curtain rings instead.

[Click here](#) for more activities for infants.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

BUILDING TOWERS

MATERIALS:

- Tupperware · Cups
- Pots and pans · Books
- Other objects or toys available

DIRECTIONS:

- Provide your child with the materials listed above, or what you have at home.
- Encourage your child to stack and build with the materials.
- Follow their lead by stacking and building with them, or using your own materials on the side.
- Ask questions, for example: "How high can you build?," "What would happen if you added one more?"

[Click here](#) for more activities.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

BUILDING WITH CUPS

MATERIALS:

- Plastic cups
- Other toys or materials available
- Deck of cards (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

- Present the cups to your child and allow them to explore and build different structures using the cups.
- Offer to use other toys or materials available.
- Ask questions, such as: "What would happen if you added this?," "How high can you build it?"
- To challenge your child, offer a deck of cards and see what they will do with it. You could also model for them how to make creations using the materials.

[Click here](#) for more building ideas.

[Click here](#) to read "Whose Tools?" by Tony Buzzeo.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

BUILDING 2D AND 3D SHAPES

MATERIALS:

- Play dough
- Colour pencils or popsicle sticks
- Paper

DIRECTIONS:

- Draw different shapes on a piece of paper and have your child recreate them by making 2D and 3D models.
- Use popsicle sticks or colour pencils and connect them together to make 2D shapes.
- Use play dough to make sure the sticks stay connected with each other and build a 3D model of the shape drawn on the paper.

[Click here](#) for more activities for 2D and 3D shapes.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

BUILDING A FORT

MATERIALS:

- Newspapers
- Tape
- Stapler (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

- Take two sheets of newspaper, lay them out flat and start rolling them from one corner. Secure the ends with tape.
- The tighter the roll, the more support you will have.
- Make as many rolls as you need.
- Next, make triangles with your newspaper rolls. Tape or staple the ends together to form a triangle.
- Create as many triangles as you can with your newspaper. You can build bigger structures with more triangles. Just make sure you have enough for the roof which will provide the final stability for your fort.
- Connect the triangles and secure the "joints" with some extra staples or tape to be sure it does not move around too much.

For more engineering challenges, [click here](#).

[Click here](#) to read "Pippo the Fool" by Tracy E. Fern, a book about building a famous cathedral.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

PLEASE, SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK, COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS TO CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG



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A TIP FOR TODAY

- When your child is building or stacking, ask questions.
- Open-ended questions (the ones that have many possible answers) support your child's language development and critical thinking.
- Encourage your child to tell you about themselves and talk about the materials they are using, and their ideas.