

DRAMATIC PLAY TIPS

Construction Site Edition

SET UP

Play helps children explore new things about their world and develop the social and emotional skills they will need as they get older. Something as simple as playing construction will help your child build many early skills, including self-regulation, empathy, and cooperation.

- Set up a construction site for your child to play, explore, and build.
- Think ahead and save a variety of cardboard boxes. Tape the empty boxes shut and they can stack these to build structures.
- Give them sheets and blankets and help them build a fort. Chip clips are great to secure sheets to things like chair backs.
- If you have a large roll of paper, hang some on a wall and ask your child to design their own building by drawing it.



READING

Next time you're on a car ride, point out all of the signs on buildings to your child. Is there a building under construction nearby? Stop and look at all of the signs. Ask your child if they know what any of the signs or symbols mean. For example, "hard hats required."



WRITING

Combine writing, construction, and math by using a measuring tape to measure words! Use some blank paper and write out various construction themed words to go over with your child. If they are already writing, have them do it. Then have them measure how long each word is with a tape measure. What is the longest word? The shortest?



TALKING

Have an old socket wrench in your toolbox? Get it (or another type of tool) out and show your child how it works. Talk about the different parts and what it can do as you build things. Let them try to use it too. Encourage them to talk about what they are doing as they use it. This is a great time for action words like pushing, turning, twisting, pulling, etc.

SINGING

Building a House

Building a house is lots of work,
(wipe brow.)

First, you dig up lots of dirt.
(Pretend to dig.)

Then you pour a concrete floor,
(Touch floor.)

And pound boards with nails galore.
(Pretend to hammer.)

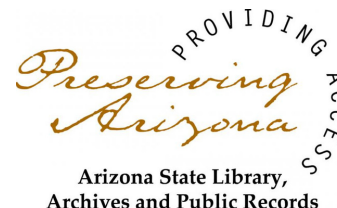
Doors and windows go in fast,
(Draw squares in air with finger.)

Now your house is done at last.
(Clasp hands together above head.)



PLAYING

Help your child build their own tool belt! Use paper to draw tools for them to color. Help them cut them out and tape, glue, or staple them to a paper belt that you can fasten around their waist as they play. Then, let them go to town on their construction site. By providing a small number of supplies, you are opening your child up to endless opportunities to let their creativity run wild.



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