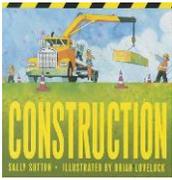


Family Storytime

"SOMETIMES THE MOST ORDINARY THINGS COULD BE MADE EXTRAORDINARY, SIMPLY BY DOING THEM WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE." NICOLAS SPARKS

Books as Foundation



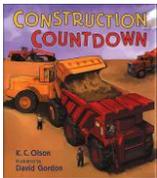
Construction, by Sally Sutton

Big machines and construction workers are building a library. What tools will they use and how will they do it? Simple text and colorful pictures will engage children as they follow the progress of the building.



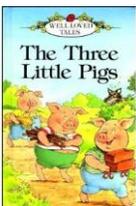
Construction Zone, by Tana Hoban

Tana Hoban's work always includes colorful photos of things that are of interest in a child's world. This book highlights 13 construction vehicles and the places they work.



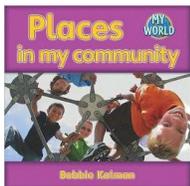
Construction Countdown, by K. C. Olson

This counting book with rhyming words is a fun way to learn about construction vehicles and count down from ten to one.



The Three Little Pigs

There are different versions of *The Three Little Pigs*, but the storyline of building three different types of houses can lead to an interesting discussion about structure and materials.



Places in my community, by Bobbie Kalman.

It is important for children to understand what a community is and how they fit in it. This nonfiction book introduces children to the idea of community helpers and buildings they may find in their town or city.



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Songs and Fingerplays as Framework

Fingerplay:

“A House for Me”

The carpenter’s hammer

Goes rap, rap, rap, (pound hand with fist)

And his saw goes see, saw, see,

(Move arm in sawing motion)

He hammers and hammers, (hammer)

And he saws and saws, (saw)

And he builds a house for me.

(Make house out line with fingers)

Song:

“Shapes Hokey Pokey”

(give each person a shape to hold as you dance)

You put your circle in,

You put your circle out,

You put your circle in and you shake it all about.



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You do the Shape Pokey and you turn yourself around.

That's what it's all about!

(repeat with different shapes)

Action rhyme:

"Dump Truck"

Dump truck, dump truck, bumping down the road (walk around the room, bouncing up and down)

Spilling gravel as you drive with your load,

Bumpety, bumpety, bumpety, bump

Dump truck, dump truck, dump truck, DUMP! (tip over like you're dumping rocks)

Extension activities as Walls:

- Take-apart projects- place old technology and machines out, with tools for families to take them apart and see how they are put together. Research to make sure there are not any unsafe parts in the items.



- Put out blocks for families to build with. You can introduce or display the seven steps of block play as a guide for parents:
 1. Discovering blocks- carrying, feeling, chewing, dropping, holding
 2. Stacking blocks- children start stacking and knocking down, or lining blocks up horizontally
 3. Complex stacking- combining vertical and horizontal stacks to make more complex stacks



4. Making enclosures- children start naming the structure. This is a good point to introduce animal, people, or car props.
 5. Creating bridges and arches
 6. Combining bridges and enclosures
 7. Building with patterns and symmetry
- Provide props for community helpers such as fire hose, police hat, stethoscope, etc. Children and families can pretend play those roles and explore who helps them in their lives.

Crafts as Roofing:

- Provide mini and regular size marshmallows, gum drops, and toothpicks for families to create structures.



<http://www.modernparentsmessykids.com/2013/05/stem-activity-gum-drop-engineering.html>

- Provide boxes, big pieces of cardboard, duct and packing tape, and markers for construction. You can preview the video of Caine's Arcade before the construction begins. <http://cainesarcade.com/>
- Contact Lowes or Home Depot for the building kits they provide for children's workshops. They sometimes have leftovers they will donate to classrooms or programs.



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Snacks as Decoration:

- <http://www.nuttinbutpreschool.com/apple-smile-snack/>



Spread cream cheese or strawberry yogurt on apple slices. Place mini-marshmallows to resemble teeth and top with another apple slice covered with cream cheese or yogurt.

- Queenspeech.blogspot.com



Traffic safety signs are a great lead-in for talking about police and firemen. Pictured are four versions of traffic sign snacks- graham crackers with frosting (or Nutella) and M & M's, graham cracker with cream cheese and fruit, Rice Krispie treats with M & M's, and celery with cream cheese and red, yellow, and green peppers cut into circles.





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