



HELLO PARENTS,

A simple cardboard box is one of the cheapest and most versatile toys you can offer your children. What starts as a box, can quickly be turned into a car, a house, a rocket ship, a cave... The possibilities are unlimited! There is no right or wrong way to play with them. Cardboard boxes stimulate children's creativity and imagination. Even large boxes can be easily handled by young children. They can be drawn on, painted, cut open, flattened, then re-shaped again. A plain cardboard box can provide hours of entertainment for your child.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

SHOEBOX GAME

MATERIALS:

- Shoebox
- Scissors
- Small toys (balls, cars, animals)

DIRECTIONS:

- Cut holes in the lid of the shoebox.
- Push a toy into the hole.
- Let your child try other toys.

[Click here](#) to find more activities with cardboard boxes.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

CARDBOARD CAR RAMP

MATERIALS:

- Large piece of cardboard
- Toy cars

DIRECTIONS:

- Fold the cardboard in half.
- Stand the cardboard up to make a ramp for the cars to go down.
- Let the cars roll down the cardboard hill.

[Click here](#) to find more activities.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

BOX TUNNEL

MATERIALS:

- Large cardboard boxes
- Tape

DIRECTIONS:

- Remove the ends of the boxes and tape them end to end to create a long tunnel.
- Encourage your child to crawl in, ride a car, etc.

[Click here](#) to find more activities.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

CARDBOARD CAR

MATERIALS:

- Cardboard box
- Tape
- Markers, pencils
- Scissors
- Glue

DIRECTIONS:

- Cut the top flaps of the cardboard box.
- Draw five circles on the pieces and cut them out.
- Glue four circles on the sides of the box for wheels and use the fifth one as a steering wheel.
- Decorate your car with pencils and markers.
- Enjoy the ride!

[Click here](#) to see how to make an airplane.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

CARDBOARD BOX PUPPET THEATRE

MATERIALS:

- Large cardboard box
- Scissors
- Scarves
- Tape
- Markers, pencils
- Stuffed animals and other toys

DIRECTIONS:

- Cut off the top and bottom flaps and the back of the box.
- Cut out a large rectangle in the middle section.
- Use tape to attach scarves to the rectangle to create curtains.
- Decorate your theatre with pencils and markers.
- Invite your family for a show.

[Click here](#) to find more activities.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
PLEASE, SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK, COMMENTS OR
SUGGESTIONS TO CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Save boxes in all sizes.
- Let your child decide what to do with cardboard boxes.
- Cut windows in a large box.
- Add other available materials (scarves, pencils, toy animals, cars, etc.) to stimulate play.