



## HELLO PARENTS,

Playing with a variety of building and creative materials helps children boost self-confidence and encourages their independent learning. Using recycled materials to inspire play teaches children to be aware of the need to conserve our environment. Recycled materials are often toys that inspire creativity because they do not tell a child how to play with it. In this newsletter, we provide you with activities that will encourage your child to learn about the importance of reusing or conserving earth's resources through playing and building with recycled materials.

## ACTIVITIES INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

### TISSUE BOX PLAY

#### MATERIALS:

- An empty tissue box
- Jar lids
- Plastic tray

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Put the jar lids and empty tissue box on the tray and place them in front of your child.
- Let your child explore the materials.
- Show your child how to put the lids inside the tissue box.
- Interact with your child and say some simple words related to the activity. For example: in, out, empty, and full.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

## TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

### PAPER TOWEL ROLL BLOCKS

#### MATERIALS:

- Empty paper towel rolls
- Construction paper
- Glue or tape
- Scissors

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Use tape or glue to wrap the paper towel roll with the construction paper.
- Cut out small squares out of construction paper and glue them to each end of the paper towel roll.
- Once all the rolls are covered give them to your child to build.
- Join your child in building. Use words to describe what they are doing. For example, "You are building a tower".

[Click here](#) to read "Don't Throw That Away" by Lara Bergen.

## PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

### BUILDING A CAR TRACK

#### MATERIALS:

- Different recycled materials, for example: paper towel roll, tissue box, pasta box, cereal box etc.
- Empty jars
- Toy cars

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Gather your materials and place them on the floor.
- Have your child arrange the track the way they would like. For example, put the egg box on top of two empty jars to create a tunnel, use the cereal boxes to make the walls of the track, or you can use the pasta boxes, and paper towel rolls to make a ramp.
- After your child is done arranging their car track, use the toy cars to race.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

## JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

### RECYCLED ROBOT

#### MATERIALS:

- 1 big box
- 4 paper towel rolls
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- 1 small box
- Googly eyes (optional)
- Glue or tape
- Markers

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Assemble your robot by using a big box as the body, paper towel rolls as the hands and the legs of the robot, and a small box as the head.
- Use tape or glue to stick the paper towel rolls (legs and arms), and the small box to the big box.
- Cut out several strips of construction paper and crinkle them.
- Cover your robot with the crinkled construction paper using tape or glue.
- Glue or draw the eyes.
- Cut out a nose and mouth and glue them on.
- After you are done assembling your robot, decorate it and have fun.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

## SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

### CARDBOARD BOX HOUSE

#### MATERIALS:

- Small/medium size cardboard boxes
- Hot glue gun
- Scissors
- Items to decorate your house for example: construction paper, scrapbook paper, foam sheets, markers, paint, and fabric scraps
- Items to furnish your house for example: bottle lids, cardboard, blocks and corks

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Begin by cutting the top flaps off all your boxes and arranging them to make the rooms of your house.
- Use construction paper, scrapbook paper, and fabric scraps to decorate the house. You could also decorate your rooms with paint or markers.
- Think about other features to add. For example: windows, stairs, fire place, or chimney and add them to your rooms before you glue the house together.
- Once you have decorated all your rooms, with the help of an adult use the hot glue gun to secure your house together.
- Use recycled materials like bottle caps, corks and cardboard to make some furniture.

[Click here](#) for more activities.



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### A TIP FOR TODAY

- Children learn about their own environment as they manipulate different materials.
- When children make their own toys, they have opportunities to make their own choices and decisions, which will help them to develop confidence and independence.
- Making things out of recycled materials gives children the opportunity to talk about what they made, and use their own words to describe their creations.
- Start a "saving for later" bin with recycled materials to use and build different toys with your child.