

Theme: Construction

Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

- ✓ Tricycles, big wheels, other riding equipment
- ✓ Toy trucks and construction vehicles
- ✓ Set up a "construction site" in the yard with tricycles, stacked "lumber" (blocks), large empty boxes, sandbox with toy dump trucks, bulldozers, etc.

Math Activities:

- ✓ Line up construction equipment by size, by color, by weight (use rulers and a scale to measure and weigh)
- ✓ Block play – provide rulers for kids to measure the blocks!

Science Activities:

- ✓ Mix mud to use as mortar; lay "bricks" or use rocks to build a tower, a house, a bridge, etc.
- ✓ Compare to flour/water mixture "mortar".
- ✓ As a group, mix some plaster or concrete to make a garden stone. Kids can put their thumbprints in it. Discuss how concrete is used at construction sites. (Supervise!)

Small Motor/Manipulatives:

- ✓ Block play (see dramatic play)
- ✓ Memory game – match trucks and tools to their word names or just match the pictures (for younger children)
- ✓ Build stuff out of play-doh

Snacks:

- ✓ Sack lunch
- ✓ Lunch box lunch
- ✓ Dirt pudding
- ✓ Broccoli "trees", baby carrots, and celery sticks
- ✓ Crackers/cookies shaped like cars, trucks, Bob the Builder
- ✓ Bananas, apples, grapes

Special Visual Aids/Room Set-Up/Field Trips:

- ✓ Field trip to a lumber yard or construction site
- ✓ Guest speaker ideas: carpenter, architect, etc.
- ✓ Get a roll of yellow "construction" ribbon/tape and put it around the room

Songs/Fingerplays/Other Resources:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/buildingbig/>

http://www.perpetualpreschool.com/preschool_themes/construction/construction.htm

Books:

Machines at Work (Barton)

The Three Little Pigs

The Night Worker (Banks)

Construction Trucks (Dussling)

Tip Tip Dig Dig (Garcia)

Road Builders (Hennessy)

Construction Zone (Hoban)

Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel (Barton)

Good Morning, Digger (Rockwell)

B is for Bulldozer (Sobel)

Little Trucks with Big Jobs (Maass)

The Construction Alphabet Book
(Pallotta)

I Drive a Crane (Bridges)

Dramatic Play:

- ✓ Building tools
- ✓ Tool belts
- ✓ Workbench
- ✓ "Build" a tent with sheets, chairs, etc.
- ✓ Construction toys in the sand box/table... along with wood shavings
- ✓ Hard hats
- ✓ Work boots
- ✓ Flash lights
- ✓ Flannel shirts
- ✓ Lincoln Logs
- ✓ Tinker Toys

Art:

- ✓ Trace a truck shape onto a large sheet of paper (teacher prep); let the children color without any instructions as to what to do with the truck shape on their papers and see what happens!
- ✓ Easel paint a picture of your home or a building you like
- ✓ Spatter paint outside by slinging paint off larger brushes onto a large sheet of canvas drop cloth; if space doesn't allow kids to do this without damaging surroundings, let them sling off water instead
- ✓ Marshmallow sculpture
- ✓ Build a birdhouse of popsicle sticks; decorate as desired
- ✓ Work together to create a building of large boxes; paint the outside (and inside?)

Circle Time Activities/Ideas:

- ✓ Let children look through several pictures of houses and choose their dream homes. Who designs houses? Architects. Who builds them? Carpenters. Show a blueprint and point out the symbols for electrical outlets, doors, windows, etc. Where's the bathroom? Where's the kitchen?
- ✓ Digging, lifting, clearing, trucks, cranes, bulldozers – Identify equipment and discuss the jobs each is used for. Show video and/or pictures of construction equipment. Read books, sing action rhymes/songs, fingerplays, etc.
- ✓ "B" is for bulldozer, building, Bob the Builder
- ✓ Protective gear – What do construction workers wear and why?
- ✓ Bob the Builder – Watch a video. Discuss the importance of working together.
- ✓ Building supplies – lumber, etc. Field trip to the lumber yard. Look at wood, tools, nails (see the variety in sizes and weights; let children hold them to compare)