

Activity Share: **Ball Ramp**

Age group: **Preschool Age**

Materials Needed:

- Many cardboard paper towel or toilet paper tubes
- A large piece of cardboard to serve as a base for the ramp.
- Masking tape (we used ½" width)
- Small bouncy balls
- Paper cup to "catch" the ball.

We started this activity with a provocation of "What do you think we could do with all of these tubes, this tape, a platform a cup and a bouncy ball?" Some suggestions from the children were that we could make a long worm, or we could try to bounce the ball into the tubes, or we could make a ball ramp. Everyone was excited about the ball ramp idea and they took turns adding tubes and tape to make a "stable structure". This cooperative engineering took nearly 45 minutes with much communication, negotiation, turn taking, adjustment, repair, and interaction. Some children would come and go throughout the morning in participation. The result was an amazing ball ramp that we used for over a month! The children dictated a story about their project. They were very proud to be engineers!

