

### Fostering Creativity At Home



The children here make a Leprechaun House with a box, string, tape, chopsticks, paper, and cardboard.



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Now that your child is increasingly able to remember details from his/her experiences, s/he has a greater desire to recreate them in play. Tap into your child's interests by offering him/her opportunities to build with blocks, assemble manipulatives, and make objects with playdough. Constructive play is an enjoyable way for your child to increase their understanding of the world. As s/he builds and creates they develop a greater sense of how things work. Independently building a play zoo or supermarket helps your child develop pride in his/her work. In addition to learning about math concepts such as balance and size relationships, your child refines his/her fine-motor skills by handling constructive play materials and putting them together. The "Parent Tips" below feature suggestions about how you can support your child's constructive play at home.

1. Build With Real Life Objects. Enhance your child's imagination by encouraging him/her to make constructions with real-life objects such as tables, chairs, cushions, and blankets. At this age, children love making caves and secret hiding places. Join your child in construction and play pretend games together.
2. Use Recycled Materials. Everything your child needs for an exciting building adventure is probably right in your home! Invite your child to create different structures from empty cereal boxes, frozen juice cans, and paper towel rolls. They can also combine them with other building toys!
3. Appreciate Your Child's Work. Your child is now at the age where he might want to keep his constructions standing for more than one day. Many children like returning to buildings in order to embellish them with new features. Making signs for "saved" buildings, taking down dictation about children's constructions, and setting up protective barriers lets your child know that you respect their work.