

Play and Leisure Functional / Manipulative Play

Construction

Construction play involves manipulating one or more pieces of play materials to create something new. This may involve a variety of methods - stacking, sticking, putting together, taking things apart, sorting or moulding, to name a few.

Construction play develops all types of skills and behaviours;

- The motor skills necessary to create and manipulate the items
- Imagination skills
- Planning & ideation skills; the ability to try out and test ideas
- Perseverance when things don't work.
- When working with others turn taking and collaboration skills

Activity Ideas

- Add new materials to your child's building block set- empty plastic tubs, pieces of fabric, balls of wool, shells, bottle tops, lengths of ribbon, stones etc.
- Make models from a cereal box or toilet roll tube adding lollipop sticks, buttons, googly eyes, string, sequins, felt tipped pens, tape, cotton wool, paint.



- Add new materials to playdough (see below for homemade playdough recipe) – matchsticks, lollipop sticks, googly eyes, buttons, sequins etc.

Please be aware that playdough (both shop bought and homemade) may contain wheat. Make sure you use a wheat free alternative if there is a known wheat allergy.



- Build a den from sheets, chairs, large boxes.
- Follow instructions to build a Lego model.



Precautions: Supervise your child whenever they are playing with small items as these pose a choking hazard.



2 cups of plain flour
2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
½ cup of salt
2 tablespoons of cream of tartar
Up to 1 ½ cups of boiling water
Food colouring (optional)



Mix the dry ingredients and oil in a large mixing bowl, add the colouring to the boiling water (if using). Gradually add the water until it comes together. Once the mixture is cool get your child to knead the dough until the stickiness has gone.

The playdough should last for up to 6 months if stored in an air tight container.

Playdough Recipe

Precautions: Supervise your child whenever they are playing with small items as these pose a choking hazard.