



GIANT LACING BOX

Materials you need:

- A large cardboard box like an appliance box or alternatively you can do single sheets of cardboard for children to work on individually.
- Pencil or something to push through the cardboard to make holes
- Coloured shoelaces, ribbon or thick wool strands

Setup for play:

- Before play begins punch a series of holes on the closed end and sides of the cardboard box – don't make them too small or the children will lose interest and get frustrated quickly.
- Set the box on it's side with one end open so the children can crawl inside.
- Pass out the laces or ribbon and show the children how to push them through the holes then pull out with another hand to weave. They will need to work together to reach some spaces like the closed end of the box .
- If you find it easier you can also use the separate sheets of cardboard with holes covering the surface (just cut up some cardboard box sides – no need for fancy!) and the shoelaces so they can hold and turn as they push and pull through the holes

What are they learning with this activity?

As they begin to weave in and out of holes in the cardboard they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills, balance and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Express themselves creatively
- Manipulate equipment and real life tools with increasing competence
- Problem solve and make decisions
- Persist even when they find the task difficult
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Make decisions about the materials they want to use and what works best.
- Negotiate roles, responsibilities and relationships as they work together in a group.

Extending the play:

- Show children how to use the ribbon or laces to wrap or bind blocks, sticks and other small objects.
- Use the individual cardboard sheets with holes and laces to practice tying shoelaces.
- When the weaving is done at the end of the week, cut the sides, open up the box and use it as a base for a small world. Encourage the children to draw their own scenes and use the materials they choose to create their world!

