



BRIDGE BUILDER

Materials you need:

- Pictures of famous and local bridges
- Wooden blocks
- Loose parts collection including pipes, empty containers and tins, drinking straws, craft sticks, planks of wood, cardboard rolls, plastic cups – whatever you have that could be used to build bridges
- Tape, string, scissors, tape measure, clipboard and pen.

Setup for play:

- Look at the pictures (or videos) of the bridges together – point out some of the similar features.
- Add the loose parts materials to the block and construction area and set up something the bridge needs to go over, so they can get an idea of how high they must build.
- Encourage the children to use the paper and pens to draw a design of the bridge they want to build. See if they can come to a consensus as a group on which design to try.
- Take photos of the finished bridges to display or make into a book for the children to look at and share with others.

INVITING THE IMAGINATION IN - ACTIVITY GUIDE 46

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children begin to select materials and build their bridges they are learning to:

- Combine materials to create a 3D object,
- Use recycled materials in creative ways
- Work together in a group with others
- Make decisions about the materials they want to use and what works best.
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and hands on investigation
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Manipulate equipment and real-life tools with increasing competence
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve
- Use their play to imagine and explore ideas
- Understand basic position concepts
- Listen to and follow directions
- Coordinate and strengthen their large muscles as they bend, stretch, lift, carry and turn
- Express themselves creatively while investigating and experimenting
- Recognise their individual achievements and successes – show pride in their work
- Predict and test skills

Extending the play:

- Add items of various weights and see whose bridge buckles under the pressure!
- Compare two or more materials using the same design and see which one can take more weight
- Try making the same design on a much larger scale, with two cardboard boxes as the base units