



Straw Structures

Children see many types of shapes in many sizes and forms daily, even if they do not know how to clearly identify and define them. Creating engaging experiences that build fine motor skills while supporting balance, stability and rigidity is beneficial to a child's learning and development.

Gather the largest bag of drinking straws you can and some masking tape. Avoid using the flexible straws. Ask your child "What is a structure?" Some children may already know the meaning while others may need you to define it. It may also be a great idea to show your child pictures of different types of structures. With your child, discuss how you can build the tallest and strongest structure using only straws and tape. While discussing, allow your child to draw the structure while describing it.

When you are ready, begin building your structure together. Remember to follow your child's lead while encouraging them along the way. If this is the first time your child is doing this activity, do not place a limit on the time or amount of straws that can be used. You want to allow your child to simply be creative and encourage their learning. Feel free to challenge your child to create and name various shapes and letters that may appear within the structure.

Learning on the Go!

- Have play dough around? Know how to make your own? Build some clay structures outside on the sidewalk. Go a step further and try building a city with multiple structures.
- On a drive? Have your child identify and name the various structures they see during the drive. Challenge the child by asking them to name the shapes of the structures and possible colors and letters the child may see



Share with us! We would love to see how you did with this activity. Use the hashtag #grow2gether so we can find it!

