



Downtown, Uptown

Play-based learning is important to develop creative learning temperaments during the brain's most active period of growth. These and other early learning experiences that support thinking, investigation and creativity have substantial lifelong benefits.

Gather some empty, unused cardboard boxes from around the house or from local stores. Make some space in the living or bedroom to accommodate this experience. Bring out some markers, scissors, tape, glue and other items to decorate and construct the boxes.

Have your child think about going uptown or downtown and ask them "What do you see?" Feel free to encourage your child to get as specific as possible by sharing colors, sounds, shapes, people, and more. Then, let your child's imagination run wild by decorating the boxes and creating scene. Younger children may need your support while older children may want to take full lead.

Feel free to add some wooden building blocks, cars, trains and some wooden/plastic people make the scene more realistic. Lastly, you can grab your laptop or cell phone to incorporate some traffic sounds to the experience.

Learning on the Go!

After the experience above, take a few pictures of the cardboard box 'uptown, downtown' structure. Then, take a drive through your city's uptown or downtown (with your child) to see how their thinking and creativity aligned with the actual uptown/downtown scene. Ask your child questions like "What do you see that is the same as your uptown/downtown?" "What do you see that is different?" "What would you like to add to your uptown/downtown when we get back home?"



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

