

LET'S PLAY!



Construction play supports children's planning, persistence, and problem solving skills. It helps build their understanding of space, distance, size, and features of different objects. It also supports children's understanding of cause-and-effect relationships, and promotes communication and cooperation.



Support construction play by providing materials that promote creativity and building. Ask questions or prompt children to try new ideas or create a plan to help build executive function and language.



construction play

Construction play includes creating, building, or making things with art materials, blocks, or musical instruments.



infants



Your role

Respond to children's actions and the result of those actions. Talk to them about what they did and what happened. Engage them in constructive activities in simple ways (e.g., stack a few items that they can knock down).

When, where, what

Babies begin to learn about objects during daily routines. As babies gain more control of their bodies, provide objects that children can move, use to make a noise, or place on top of another item. Encourage babies to combine or separate toys (e.g., replace and remove rings from a post).

toddlers

Your role

Allow for open-ended play with different, age-appropriate materials like crayons, blocks, or playdough. Model how objects can be used or combined, but allow children to make their own unique creation!



When, where, what

Children can build and create using many different objects. Explore using natural outdoor objects, build with blocks, or make food sculptures as a cooking project. Children can use clean recyclable containers to create something unique.

preschoolers



Your role

Ask open-ended questions to encourage them to talk about the building process – focus on what they want to make, their actions, the materials they are using, and if they are getting the results they want.

When, where, what

Allow time for both free exploration of materials, as well as teacher-planned experiences. Provide a range of materials that encourage children to build and create. Provide time and materials (e.g., pencils and paper in the block center) to support planning and reflection.



Visit ctoec.org/play to see how these ideas connect to the CT ELDS, Sparkler, and other OEC Resources.

