

Playing At Home

NOT A BOX!

- Find or make a cardboard box with the help of your grown-up. You can build a bigger box by opening up smaller shipping boxes and taping them together. Hardware stores sell large moving boxes for under \$5.
- Take a close look at your box. Is it large? Small? Medium? Extra large?
- Use your imagination to think up different possibilities for your box. How would you want to decorate it? Is it a car? A house? A spaceship? Invite friends and family members to join in your box adventures.
- What other materials do you want to add to your creation? Blankets? Stickers? Wheels?
- Who do you want to take along on your adventures?
- What do you want to wear? Where are you going? What do you want to take with you?

WHAT IS MY CHILD LEARNING?

- Dreaming up different possibilities for a box promotes creativity, ingenuity and thinking “outside-of-the-box.”
- Playing with a cardboard box is the perfect platform for dramatic play. As children imagine what their box can be, they become characters in elaborate play stories. Help your children tell their stories by asking open-ended questions like, “What will happen next?”
- Inviting others to join in your play encourages language development, communication and teamwork.
- **Mathematical Development:** Constructing boxes and building with boxes helps develop spatial ability and understanding of how things fit together.
- **Cognitive Development:** Pretend play supports symbolic thinking, helping children to explore possibilities that are beyond their life experience and make connections with things they have heard of, read about, etc. Planning for a pretend trip helps children understand the ways they need to think ahead in order to have what they need for their adventure.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Cardboard box (the larger the better!)
- Markers or crayons
- Imagination!

SONG OF THE WEEK

DO YOU KNOW WHAT SHAPE THIS IS?

(Tune: Have You Seen the Muffin Man?)

Do you know what shape this is,*

What shape this is, what shape this is?

Do you know what shape this is?

Please tell me what you see!

**Use common objects of different shapes, ask if they can find other examples of the shape.*

POWER OF PLAY MESSAGE

PLAY CONNECTS YOU & YOUR CHILD

- When you play with your child they feel valued
- Playing together provides a view of the world through your child’s eyes



 play to learn
Pierce County

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