

Daily tips for Playful Learning at Home



Out of the Box!



Playing creatively with cardboard boxes is great for different ages to play together.

Drawing on cardboard boxes is a motivating way to get reluctant writers/drawers involved.

What do I need?

Cardboard boxes of different sizes.

Put things like pens, pencils, crayons, felt pens, stickers, stamps, paints etc. in an empty cardboard box.

What will your child learn from this play?

- To use their imaginations and be creative.
- Fine motor skills.
- Hand eye coordination and control.
- Language development as you talk about what they are doing.
- Negotiation skills if they are playing with others

What do we do?

This is completely up to your child! Present them with the boxes and see what they do with them.

Follow their lead – there is no right way to do this and your child will be learning from whatever they do

- They might want to decorate the box with stickers, stamps etc.
- Or make it into a pirate ship or a hat! A space rocket or a boat – anything!
- Use it to put things in and carry them about
- Paint it any way they like and paint their name on it.

You can help or stand back and let your child explore, depending on how much help they need

Comment on what they are doing – just say what you see, pause and wait for a response then copy what they say and add to it

If your child is stuck for ideas, discuss with your child/children about what they would like to make?

How can you take it further?

- Add in some other boxes with different shapes – e.g., the inners of kitchen towel or toilet rolls
- Try combining boxes to make more complex objects and shapes
- Once the box has been one thing for a while, what else could it be?
- Once your child has played enough with the box, show them how it folds out flat! Can you make it back into a box again? Let them try.

Play & talk together
Be careful with too many questions

Pause and wait for your child to respond
Copy what they say and add to it