



Construction

Takeout Storytime



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Greetings, Caregivers!

You are your child's first teacher. Help your little one get ready to learn how to read by talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing together. Have fun!



Talk

Take a field trip to a construction site. Talk about the equipment you see and ask your child to describe what they think is happening. Ask your child what sounds they hear and then identify the letters that make those sounds. "Beep beep starts with a "B" sound! Can you make that sound with me?" Take along a book to help you identify the heavy equipment you see.



Sing

Encourage your child to play with rhymes. Give your child a word like "zoom" and then ask them to think of another sound or word that rhymes. Experimenting with rhyme while singing or playing a game helps children hear the multiple sounds that make up each word, skills they use when learning to speak and read.



Read

Explore non-fiction books about trucks or heavy equipment with your child. Before reading the text, look at the illustrations with your child and ask them to tell you what they know about each object or character. Kids are wonderful detectives, making predictions and deducing information from their knowledge of the world and context clues within the book.



Write

Invite your child to draw a picture story of their construction site field trip. What did they see, hear, and do? Transcribe their words as they describe their illustrations, modeling writing. Later, invite them to retell their story to a loved one using their illustrations.



Play

Playing with blocks is one of the best ways for kids to experience hands-on early mathematics. If you don't have a set, you can collect sticks, rocks, or cardboard boxes to make your own. As they stack, sort, and demolish, kids intuitively learn about physics, proportions, counting, and balance. Add toy vehicles or animals and watch your child's stories come to life.

Books

Available to read on Hoopla!

Inside Machines: Trucks
by David West
hoopladigital.com/title/12175193

Little Truck
by Taro Gomi
hoopladigital.com/title/11994370

Construction Site Mission: Demolition
by Sherri Duskey Rinker, A. G. Ford
hoopladigital.com/title/13318722

Trucks Go!
by Steve Light
hoopladigital.com/title/12225147

Construction Zoo
by Jennifer Thorne, Susie Hammer
hoopladigital.com/title/12402565

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Songs

Make up your own verses with your child!



Dump Truck

Dump truck, dump truck (pat knees or clap hands)
Bumping down the road
Spilling gravel as we travel with our heavy load
(sway side to side and slow tempo)
Dump truck, dump truck (speed up tempo)
Bumping down the road
Dump truck, dump truck, dump truck... dump!
(fall back or to the side)

Bumpity Bumpity

Tune: Little Red Wagon
Bumpity, bumpity goes the dump truck (bounce or jump)
Bumpity, bumpity goes the dump truck
Bumpity, bumpity goes the dump truck
Dump out the load. (tip over or fall down)

Playtime

Recreate the fun of a construction site at a child-sized scale!



Virtual Early Literacy Class

Join ImagineIF's Ellie for a construction-themed early literacy class on YouTube:
tinyurl.com/ConstructionStories

Block Play

Towers aren't the only thing built with blocks! Change it up by adding props such as paper, felt, vehicles, or animals and encourage your child to transform their blocks with their imaginations. Don't be afraid to leave blocks out for an extended period. Play will evolve and become more complex when given the chance!

Four Big Machines

Four big machines at the construction site
Worked, worked, worked with all their might!
The foreman called the dump truck to drive away
Then three big machines were left that day

Repeat as the earth mover, roller, and excavator get called away until no big machines "were left that day."

I'll Drive a Dump Truck

From "Little Songs for Little Me" by Nancy Stewart
Tune: Mary Wore Her Red Dress

I'll drive a dump truck, dump truck, dump truck
I'll drive a dump truck all day long!

I'll drive a loader...
I'll drive a digger...
I'll drive my little car... all the way home!



Little Red Wagon

Bouncing up and down in my little red wagon,
little red wagon, little red wagon
Bouncing up and down in my little red wagon,
won't you be my darling?

Down the hill and around the corner...
The wheels fell off and the wagon tipped over...
I'm gonna fix it with my little hammer...
Bouncing up and down in my little red wagon...

Loose Parts Building

Gather an assortment of items like playdough, sticks, and wire and invite your child to tinker and create. Open-ended, loose parts play celebrates the process, not the product. Along the way your child will engineer, problem solve, and investigate how things work. Encourage them to take apart their creations and build them again differently.

Construction Site

Move sandbox time indoors during the long winter months by filling a box with sand, lentils, rolled oats, or sunflower seeds. Provide items that can be used to make simple machines like wheels and axels, inclined planes, and levers Add rocks, blocks, sticks and tiny trucks for a pint-sized construction site.

Make a Puppet

Use a brown paper bag to create a puppet or tiny parking garage for toy cars. Using glue, scissors, and tape are all good kindergarten readiness activities.

