

**Top Tip from our Speech and Language Therapy Partners:**

**Being face to face with your child helps them to develop their interaction and**

**communication skills.** Talk about what your child is doing while they are doing it.

Extend your child’s language eg if your child says “it’s a big box” you could say

 “it’s an enormous square brown box”.

**“The fun is in the journey, not the end result!”**

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| **Make this simpler...*** Collect a range of different sized boxes and recycling items e.g. kitchen roll cardboard, empty cereal boxes, packing boxes etc
* Allow your child to explore building and sorting the boxes and objects.
* Hide a toy in and around the boxes and explore positional language to guess where they are e.g. *the teddy is inside the box.*
 | **Make this more challenging...*** Encourage your child to draw plans for a design for the box/es – can they turn the boxes into something and follow their plans?
* What shapes are needed for a rocket/car/puppet show? What extra materials might they need?
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**Tips to support your child:**

* Talk to your child about the shape, size, depth & width of the box and encourage your child to think about how they could use this box within their play.
* Encourage and follow your child’s current interests: could they build a castle, a bus/train, build a spaceship, use the boxes to create an animal hospital etc.
* Support your child through the learning experience by encouraging them to use their imagination and think about how they can transform the box in to anything they want it to be.
* Where possible develop your child’s confidence and independence through giving them the materials to transform the box but without your physical help (unless they ask for it).
* You can revisit this experience throughout the day or weeks. Your child can add to the experience or change the purpose of the experience completely. Did you used to play with boxes as a child? Talk to your child about your own experiences.

**The basic idea:**

To make use of simple cardboard boxes - of any shape or size - and get creative making, learning and imagining with your child. The possibilities really are endless!

Early Years Home Learning

Confidence, Creativity and Curiosity
**It’s not just a box!**

**Materials**

You may need:

* Cardboard boxes (any size/shape – the larger the better sometimes)
* Scissors (used with supervision)
* Variety of mark making tools –
* Chalk/pens/felt tips/crayons/paint & brushes
* Sticky tape/masking tape/glue
* Stickers
* String

**How this benefits your child:**

* This learning experience will develop your child’s inquiry, curiosity and discovery skills.
* They will develop their knowledge that it is not just a box, but can be transformed into anything they want it to be.
* They will use a variety of fine motor skills, hand eye-co-ordination, and develop their concentration and problem solving abilities and ultimately their communication skills.

This is best:

Indoors or Outdoors