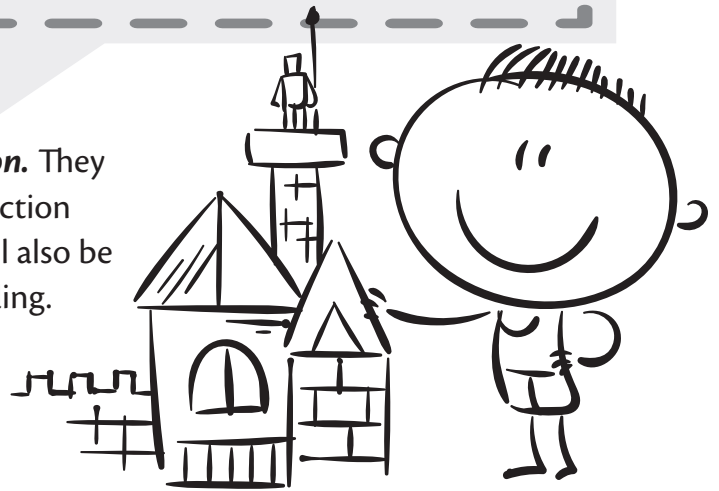


Under Construction

This week, children will be exploring construction. They will learn the names of big machines and construction vehicles and find out how they are used. They will also be introduced to the different stages (steps) in building.



Word of the Week

construction

Construction is the process of building something.

Use the Word of the Week at home.

You might notice a construction project and talk about the machines you see:

Look at the cement mixer. What do you think these workers are building?

Read About Construction

Read books about construction and construction vehicles to your child. Here are three classics by Virginia Lee Burton: *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*, *Katy and the Big Snow*, and *The Little House*. As you read, ask your child to point to the machines and tell how the workers use them. Explain: *The illustrations in these books were drawn 50 years ago. How are construction vehicles different today?*

More Words to Know

architect
builder
cooperation
floors
foundation
parallel
polygon
straight

Shapes with Straight Sides

Provide craft sticks, toothpicks, straws or narrow pieces of paper. Have your child build a shape. Ask: *How many sides does your shape have? Are the sides straight? parallel? How can you change the shape? Does your shape have a name? What is it?* Practice building and naming more shapes.

Build It Up, Knock It Down

Use Legos™, blocks, or boxes to build structures with your child. Discuss balance and stability as you work. Remember, not only is building fun, but knocking down can be exciting, too. Just be sure to agree on the knocking down time before surprising your child or being surprised yourself when your masterpiece crashes down.

Machines at Work Around Me

Take your child to watch bulldozers and other construction machines at work. Make sure to watch from a safe distance. Visit the same place several different times so that you can see the project at different stages.

Coming Next Week: Children will explore tools that workers use.