

## Junk Modelling

By using boxes, empty kitchen roll and wrapping paper tubes, lids, empty food containers, etc. you can have great fun together and find out more about maths. Decide together what you could build or create from these junk materials. Following your child's ideas is always a great place to start and helps them to become more independent and confident. Talk about the shapes and edges of the containers you can see - are they straight or curved? Listen out for comments your child says; repeating these back can show you are listening and enjoying what your child has said. Model making mistakes, for example, not balancing boxes correctly so they fall over...this can reassure your child that mistakes are okay and help them think through what we might do next time.



### Supporting your child to develop their language

Try to remember to ask less questions and make more comments about what is happening, have a go at saying four comments to one question

1. Here's a big box.
2. I can see a curved edge.
3. The box is flat on top.
4. You're really good at building.
5. Which box shall we put on top?

### Words to share

Big, small, flat, curved, straight, edge, on top, underneath

### Making it work for your family

At first, let your child explore the boxes, tubes and containers; have fun together finding out about different sizes and shapes before you build or create with the materials.

As your child becomes more confident, you may chat about putting boxes 'on top' of each other or 'underneath'. You could also make the model more permanent by using tape to fix boxes together.



### Next time you could try ...

keeping the creation out to show other people how important it is to the child - this gives another chance to talk about their creation and understand maths.

encouraging your child to choose and use different materials for junk modelling.

**Look** all around you, **talk together** about the things you see, **recap together** on what you have enjoyed - children enjoy doing the same activity again and again and again - this really helps them to learn and remember.