

Learning possibilities

Text: Portis, A 2008, *Not a box*, HarperCollins Children's Books, London.

Engage

- Step 1. Gather your child/children for a story using the song, 'If you want to hear a story'.
- Step 2. Encourage your child/children to predict what the story is about from the cover.
- Step 3. Read the story or watch the video using the link in the Resources box and encourage children to join in the refrain, 'It's not a box!'
- Step 4. Here are some questions to ask your child/children about the story.
1. What is this story about? (a rabbit who likes to use its imagination to create things using boxes)
 2. What was the first thing the rabbit made? (racing car)
 3. What else did the rabbit imagine it could make? (mountain, building, robot, hot air balloon, pirate's crows' nest, a tugboat)
 4. What can you see in your imagination?

Respond

Invite your child/children to explore ideas about what they could make using empty containers, e.g. cereal boxes, shoe boxes, a larger cardboard box and collage. Encourage them to think about the materials that they will need and model writing for a purpose by making a list of their suggestions. Ask your child/children to draw a picture of their design before they start. Help your child/ children to do an online search to find some examples of the object they wish to make.

Extend

- Provide a range of materials for your child/children to use in their constructions including cardboard boxes of all ranges of sizes, cardboard offcuts, packaging boxes (small fridge, washing machine boxes) and recycled containers, lids etc.
- If your child/children select smaller boxes to link together, use the opportunity to explore ways to join objects using a variety of materials including: paper fasteners, paper clips, stapler and staples, string, wool, jute, pipe cleaners, glue sticks, rubber bands, pegs. Help your child/children explore the properties of the fasteners to work out which method of joining objects is best suited to the purpose. Pose different questions, for example: 'Will a glue stick work to hold cardboard boxes together?' This invites children to hypothesise, predict, experiment and to problem solve.

Resources

Song

'If you want to hear a story'

(Tune: 'If you're happy and you know it')

If you want to hear a story, come sit down,

If you want to hear a story, come sit down.

Let's share a great big smile, as we read and talk a while,

It's time to hear a story, come sit down.

Video

Not A Box (YouTube, Alan Smithee)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXqFv610g0o>