



Storytime Activity Guide

Future Engineer

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Did you know babies and engineers have a lot in common? Just like engineers, babies are very curious, ask questions, love to build things, and solve problems!

Did you know?

Nature provides a rich and engaging learning environment that supports children's understanding of science concepts. By immersing young children in natural settings and experiences, they develop a strong foundation for scientific thinking and exploration. While sharing ***Future Engineer***, engage your child by inviting their curiosity and questions while also engaging their creativity and problem solving skills.



Words to Practice

engineer
experiment
question
test

Talk about it!

Babies and very young children may not be talking yet or have a big enough vocabulary to answer you. Even if you are answering your own questions, every time you talk with your child about what you see in *Future Engineer*, you are building their vocabulary and comprehension.

- Engineers design and build. Do you like to build? (Answer your question by talking about whether you like to build and if so, what kinds of things you like to build.)
- Can you build a tower with your blocks like baby?
- What else can we use to build a tower?
- Engineers wonder and ask a lot of questions. What do you wonder about? (Tell your child what you wonder about and the kinds of questions you have.)

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Explore!

Loose Parts and Stacking

Loose parts are open-ended materials that have unlimited play and learn possibilities! Use items found during a nature walk to build and stack.

Materials needed:

- Items collected during a nature walk: i.e rocks, sticks, pinecones, leaves, acorns etc.
- Small basket, tray or paper plate

1. Enjoy a nature walk and collect items like rocks, leaves, pinecones, acorns, twigs, etc.
2. Place items you have collected on a tray or basket. You may include other loose parts to your basket such as blocks, small boxes, plastic toys, safe kitchen items, etc.
3. Allow your child to interact with these items by picking them up and exploring their physical characteristics.
4. Encourage your child to stack and build using these items. Feel free to model for your child if they need help getting started.
5. If the child's 'construction' falls down, talk to them about why (e.g., "The rock was not flat, and that's why the block was not able to stay on top of it") and help them brainstorm solutions (e.g., "How do you think we can fix that? Do you think we can put the rock on top of the block?"). With younger children, you may need to model the process at first.
6. Observe how children problem solve and build during the process.



Play: Sink and Float

You can do this activity with a container with water or in a sink or bathtub.

Collect a few different objects, some heavy and some light: a pebble, a leaf, a pine cone, a feather, a spoon, a ball, etc. For each object, ask your child to predict if it will sink or float. Drop the object into the water and test your prediction. Experiment with how you can help a sinking object float or a floating object sink. Can a floating leaf carry a pebble without sinking?

