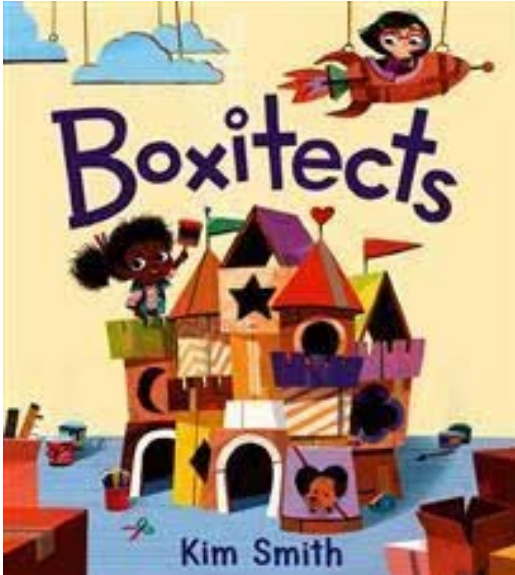




BOXITECTS

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's exploration during this literacy activity. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.

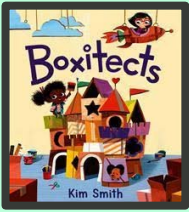


Did you know reading books is a great opportunity to support STEM learning?

Boxitects is a book written by Kim Smith.

Boxitects uses simple words and colorful pictures to talk about two peers learning to collaborate together to create an extraordinary design out of boxes.

- If you do not have a paper copy of this book, watch a YouTube video of someone reading the book. If you prefer to read it to your child yourself, just mute the audio.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMLZHHp_Llo
- Check your local library to see if it allows you to borrow a digital version of this book to read on a laptop, tablet, or phone.
- This book is accessible for individuals with reading disabilities through Bookshare.



BOXITECTS BOOKMARK

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this daily routine. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.

- Print this page and cut around the edges.
- Do not forget to **PEER!** Use additional Prompts if needed, Evaluate and Expand your child's answers, and Repeat the prompts.
- Look at STEMIE's tips for making adaptations to the storybook reading process and on the following pages:
- <https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/guide-book-adaptations>
- If you print this page, you can download or view online by scanning the QR code below.



Expanding | Engineering

Boxitects

By Kim Smith

C

Complete a sentence

Meg was a

_____."
(boxitect)."

R

Recall

"What did Meg and Simone do to finish the contest? (call a truce)"

O

Open-ended questions

"Why do you think the treehouse ship fell over?"

W

WH questions

"What ultimately knocked over Meg and Simone's project?"

D

Distancing questions

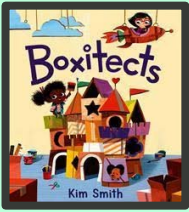
"What can you create with boxes?"

STEM Words & Ideas to Explore

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| • Box | • Team |
| • Architect | • House |
| • Tower | • Tunnel |
| • Build/Create | • Strong |
| • Rough | • Straight |



stemie.fpg.unc.edu



BOXITECTS ADAPTATIONS

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this daily routine. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.

SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT/DEAF-BLINDNESS/MULTIPLE DISABILITIES:

STORYBOX

Select corresponding items and place them in a large container/box. Items may include:

- Boxes
- Toy houses
- Tubes



Image credit: Microsoft Stock

This adaptation can also...

- Increase children's attention and engagement
- Support children with sensory challenges



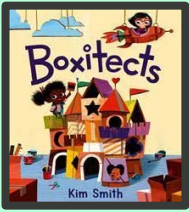
Follow your child's lead and interests. Enthusiastically ask your child questions about what they are doing and what they like.



Answer your child's questions. If you do not know the answer, work together with your child to discover the answer.



Encourage your child to participate in the activity as much as possible. Praise your child's efforts and successes.



BOXITECTS ADAPTATIONS

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this daily routine. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.

SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF COMMUNICATION:

PICTURES, SYMBOLS, SIGNS, AND/OR ICONS

- Select pictures that correspond to items/objects/animals in the book
- Add signs and icons to the story
- Use pictures along with a communication board to support STEM learning

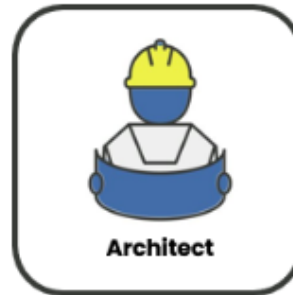


Image Credit: STEMIE

This adaptation can also...

- Increase children's attention and engagement
- Support children' learning
- Support children who are deaf/with hearing impairment



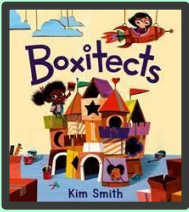
Follow your child's lead and interests. Enthusiastically ask your child questions about what they are doing and what they like.



Answer your child's questions. If you do not know the answer, work together with your child to discover the answer.



Encourage your child to participate in the activity as much as possible. Praise your child's efforts and successes.



BOXITECTS ADAPTATIONS

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

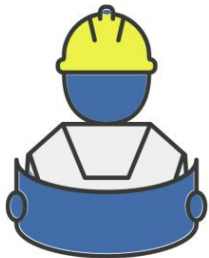
Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this daily routine. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.

VISUAL CUES:
USE TO PROMPT

HOW TO:

Step 1: Print and cut out the images. You can also create your own visual cues (empty squares included).

Step 2: As you read, use tape or Velcro to attach the pictures to the corresponding pages in the book.



Architect



Box



House



Tower



Tunnel



Build/Create



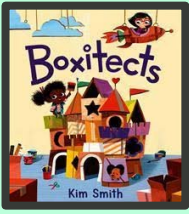
Follow your child's lead and interests. Enthusiastically ask your child questions about what they are doing and what they like.



Answer your child's questions. If you do not know the answer, work together with your child to discover the answer.




Encourage your child to participate in the activity as much as possible. Praise your child's efforts and successes.



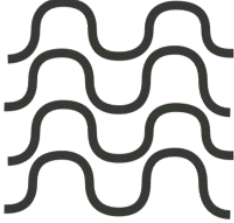
BOXITECTS ADAPTATIONS

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this daily routine. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.



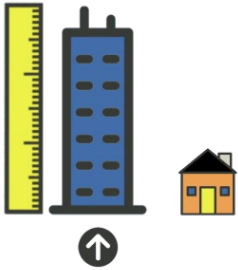
Straight



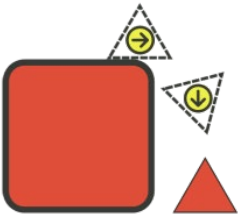
Bumpy



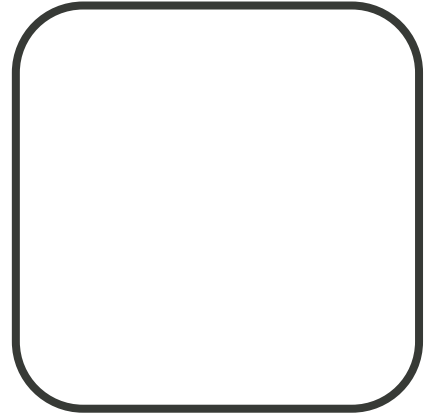
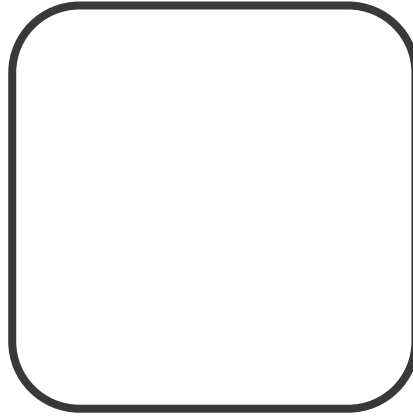
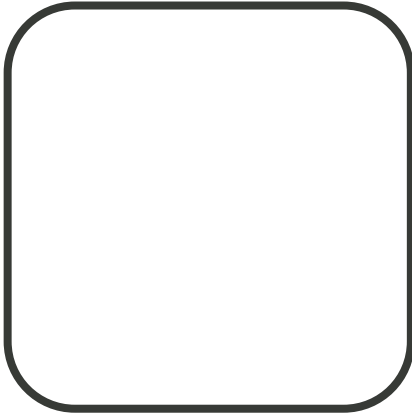
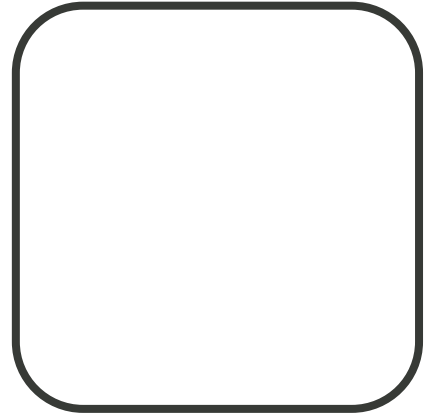
Strong



Tall



Fall/Crash



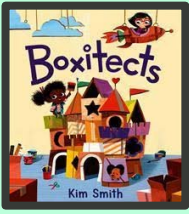
Follow your child's lead and interests. Enthusiastically ask your child questions about what they are doing and what they like.



Answer your child's questions. If you do not know the answer, work together with your child to discover the answer.



Encourage your child to participate in the activity as much as possible. Praise your child's efforts and successes.



BOXITECTS

EXPLORATION I

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this daily routine. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.

Building with Boxes

Description: Help your child make a **plan** to **create** something from their imagination using a box.

Help your child to **test** and **evaluate** their box **plan** and what they **build**. Encourage your child to **consider** if their box build looks and does what they planned for it to do.

What My Child Is Learning!

Engineering for children birth to five is about exploring materials and building knowledge about them so that they can be used to solve problems and/or create something with them.

Use drawing utensils (pencils, crayons, markers) and paper to help draw a **plan** for your child's next construction. Decide together which elements are important (walls and roof for a house; wheels and headlights for a car) and work to "carry out" their **plan and build** with the box.

Provide recycled boxes (e.g., cereal boxes, shipping boxes, macaroni, and cheese boxes etc.) and invite your child to decorate them however they wish as an expression of themselves. Re-using and recycling packing materials or cardboard boxes to build is a wonderful way to for children to practice elements of the engineering design cycle (investigate, design, evaluation).

Compare properties of different materials and objects used to construct (**big/little, hard/soft, smooth/rough**).

Encourage your child to look at "real" houses, vehicles, and design a box like it. Ask, "Is our box a "real" car? Why not? What would we need to make a real car?"

BOXITECTS



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this daily routine. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.

- Build bridges out of different materials and compare their effectiveness, record and graph observations
- As a variation of Peek-a-boo, use a box to hide under, then reveal with an enthusiastic 'Peek-a-box.' Encourage your child to 'hide themselves and then reveal.
- Stack small boxes in short towers and go bowling! See if you can knock over the towers with a ball. Encourage your child to predict and test which box towers get knocked down.
- Use spatial and positional language! Use these tips for integrating spatial and positional language into everyday conversation. Ask, "What did you **create**?" "Can you fit [**inside, outside, on top of, under**] of it"? "What is it for?"
- Create a Box City with your child. Gather boxes of different sizes and determine what buildings you might need in a city. Then plan with your child what buildings to make out of each box. Keep notes and document any adjustments you need to make as you go!
- Check out our Discovery Play Activities for:
 - Building Blocks
 - Tinker/Inventor's Box

