

Art and craft

Box construction and collage

Box construction

Box construction provides opportunities for children to explore scientific and mathematical concepts as they combine boxes and other materials together into three dimensional structures. As children construct they develop skills for problem solving, investigating, applying and reflecting on learning.

Getting started

If box construction is a new experience for your child, they will need plenty of time to explore, experiment and try out their ideas. Your child may:

- select and join items without necessarily planning or wishing to 'make anything'
- seek out specific pieces required to construct a particular item.

Learning opportunities

When children work with boxes they:

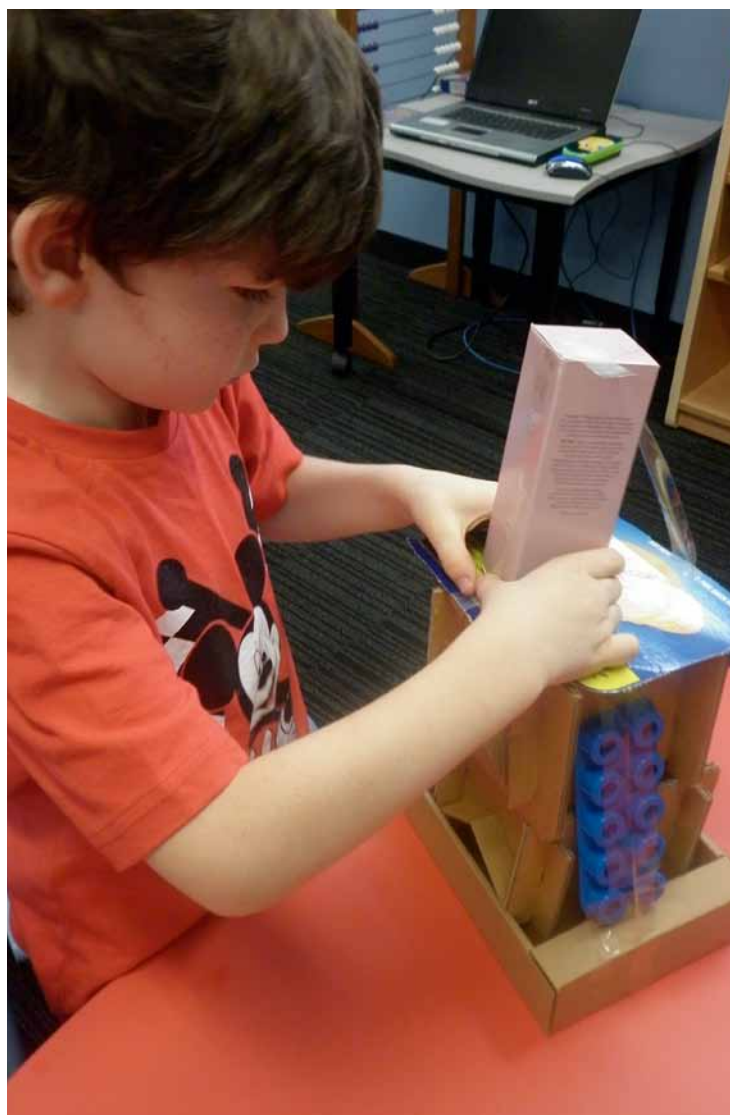
- discover for themselves that a big, heavy box will not balance when placed on a smaller, lighter one
- begin to solve problems for themselves such as when they find that glue will not hold the boxes in place and they need to use sticky tape instead
- think through their ideas, plan what they use and follow through tasks until they are satisfied with the results (persistence)
- make decisions like which pieces they need and whether they should decorate the construction with paint, crayons or felt pens.

Supporting your child's learning

- Cover boxes with coloured, white or brown paper to create a blank canvas for children to add their own ideas.
- Allow your child to explore using the materials (e.g. gluing materials onto the boxes and joining boxes together).

- Ask your child questions to encourage their thinking and to solve problems like:
 - *What could you use to make the wheels?*
 - *How could you make the house big enough to fit all of the teddies inside?*
- Encourage your child to clean up and tidy away at the end of the activity. This is important as it will help your child to take responsibility for their own things.

As children explore and construct with a variety of materials they learn to represent their ideas and be imaginative and creative.



Collage

Collage is a form of art that involves making pictures and designs by pasting different materials, textures, objects or shapes onto a background. When working with collage materials children are able to make choices about what materials they will use to represent their ideas, and to explore the elements of colour, texture, line and shape. As children sort, select and paste with collage materials they engage in ways to be imaginative and creative.

Supporting your child's learning

- Talk with your child about their collage, draw attention to the lines, colours, shapes, textures and patterns.
- Allow your child to explore ways to glue items onto their collage. Remember they may not always be representing an actual object or creating a picture of something.
- Select appropriate glue to suit the weight of materials. Most work can be done with PVA glue or a mixture of PVA and commercial or home-made paste.
- Accept that your child may select only two or three items for their collage or they may fill an entire sheet with overlapping materials.

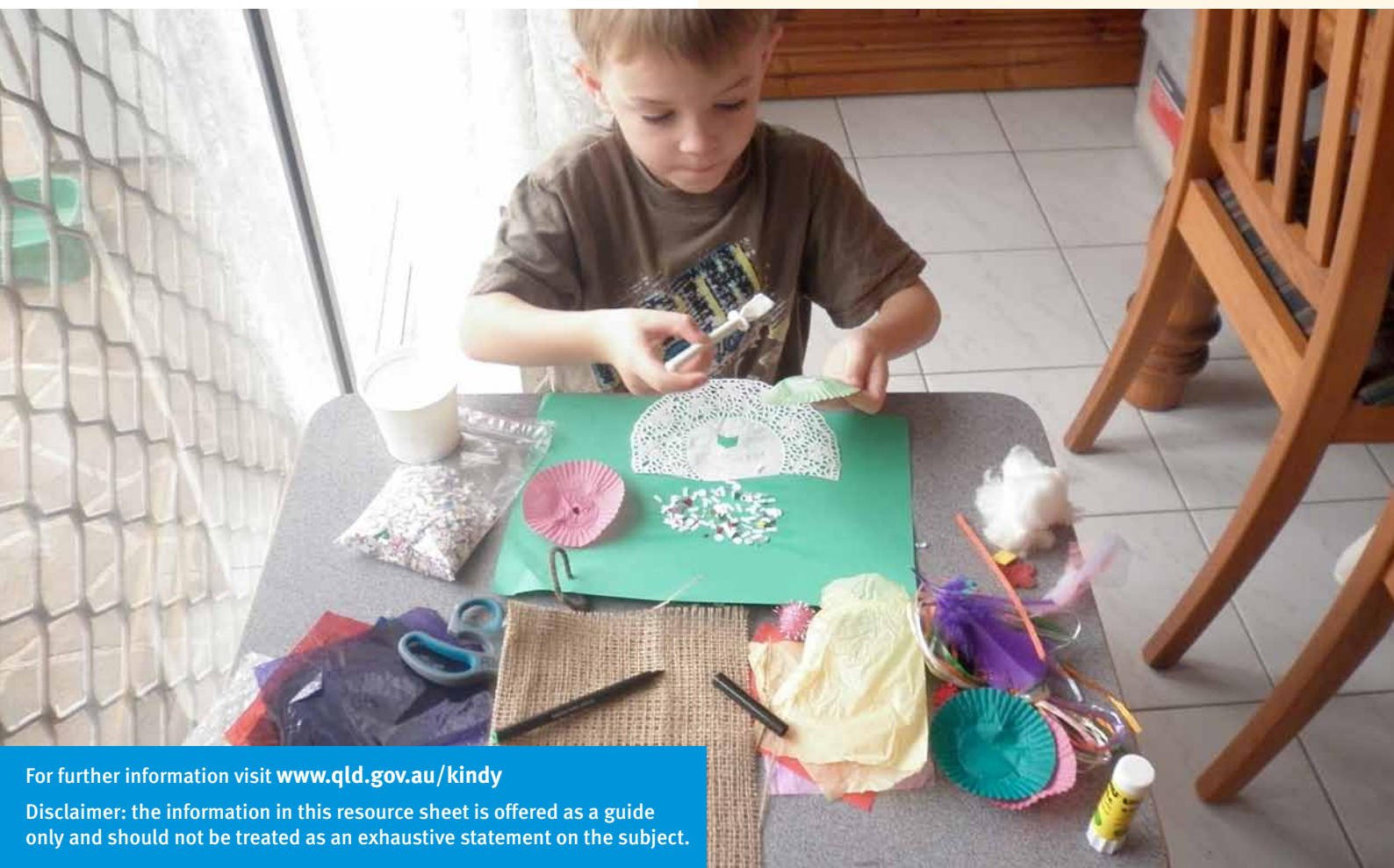
Managing collage activities

- Cover the table and floor with an old shower curtain or newspaper.
- Wear an apron or old shirt to protect clothes.
- Put glue in a pot/container and provide a small brush.
- Teach your child to always wipe the brush on the side of the pot before gluing.
- Separate collage in clear bags or containers and stack them in a large box for storage.

Extras for collage

- Old wrapping paper – tissue, cellophane, printed
- Leaves, flowers, bark, feathers
- Straws, glitter, patty pans, cotton wool, ice-block sticks, streamers
- Variety of paper, card, cloth
- Bottle tops, buttons, foil
- Stapler, sticky tape, hole punch, PVA glue

As with all children's creative experiences, the value lies in the 'doing' rather than the production of a 'work of art'.



For further information visit www.qld.gov.au/kindy

Disclaimer: the information in this resource sheet is offered as a guide only and should not be treated as an exhaustive statement on the subject.