

# CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN)  
Parent and Provider Resource: Activities for Distance Learning

## Blocks and Building

The following activity will support your child's learning while they are at home. Talk to your child and ask questions as you play. As your child listens to you, your child builds language and social skills, further reinforcing the concepts you are teaching. Match activities to your child's favorite books, songs, or toys to make them more meaningful learning experiences. Visit our website at [www.chs-ca.org](http://www.chs-ca.org) and click on the News and Events tab for more learning resources.

## PRESCHOOL - Activity: Building with Loose Parts

### What you need:

- A variety of recycled items such as: cardboard boxes and tubes, tin cans (file down sharp edges or cover them with heavy tape), rope, plastic lids and containers
- A variety of found items such as rocks, sticks, tree branches that have fallen, and pinecones
- Strong tape
- Ruler or measuring tape
- Markers
- **Optional:** Digital or phone camera

### What to do:

- This activity works best outside or in a large indoor area where children can work on a project for several days or more
- Invite your child to help you gather and organize materials. **Loose parts** are any recycled items, found objects, or other materials that can be used in an infinite number of ways
- Invite your child to explore the loose parts and think of something to build
- Allow your child to build independently, providing support if you are requested to hold something or help cut pieces of tape. Ask questions such as, "How do you plan to use that?" This will help your child develop a plan and practice critical thinking
- Encourage your child to use the other materials to add details to their structure. For example, using markers to draw pictures or create control panel buttons or signs, and using the ruler to draw lines or measure space
- Use a digital or phone camera to take pictures of the project at different stages, or even videotape it to document your child's work
- Print the pictures and ask your child to put them in order, then use them to make a book about the project. Your child can explain details about design decisions and expectations that you can write next to the pictures

### What the activity does:

- Develops muscles and coordination
- Introduces science concepts such as size, shape, weight, balance, observation, and engineering
- Builds an understanding of math concepts such as cause and effect, counting, estimation, and critical thinking
- Encourages social skills that build a sense of community

