

# 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.

## SCHOOL-AGE - Activity: Building our Community

### What you need:

- Paper and pencils
- Cardboard boxes and tubes of different sizes
- Child-safe scissors
- Markers
- Strong tape
- Sidewalk chalk
- Glue
- Collage materials such as old magazines and scraps of paper
- Toy cars and people
- **Optional:** Digital or phone camera

### What to do:

- This is a long-term project intended to take place over several weeks. If you have a digital camera or recorder, take pictures and video of the project that children can reflect on later and use to make a book
- Start by asking children what is in a community. Make a list of the businesses and services in their community such as a bank, grocery store, post office, hospital, and fire station
- Discuss what it means to be a community, how people take care of each other, and the services that support a community
- Now ask children to draw a design for a community that includes all the things they think a community might need
- Once they are satisfied with their blueprint, they can prepare for construction
- Children can use sidewalk chalk to draw the floorplan of their community, using squares or rectangles to represent where buildings will go, drawing streets, etc.
- Once it is mapped out they can begin construction of their buildings using boxes and tubes. They can cut boxes down and tape them; draw windows, doors and signs; cut pictures and letters out of magazines to glue on buildings; or use cardboard tubes and green paper to make trees in a park. They can also add toy cars for the streets and plastic people or animals
- Ask questions during the project to increase children's understanding of community and use vocabulary related to building such as: blueprint, foundation, structure, support, design, suspend, map, level, etc.
- Encourage children to create laws and procedures for their community to explore social concepts such as empathy and social support systems

### 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 measurement, spatial awareness, counting, estimation, and critical thinking
- Encourages social skills that build a sense of community

