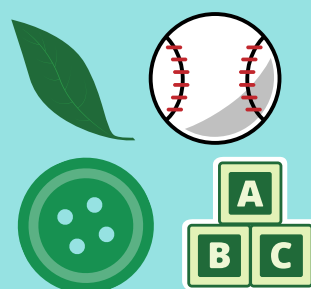


# WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

When children play on their own, they have time to explore and discover their world. It nurtures their curiosity and creates a genuine desire to learn. To better understand the world in a safe way, some guidance may be needed. Without telling children what to do or think, offer some structure in the following ways.

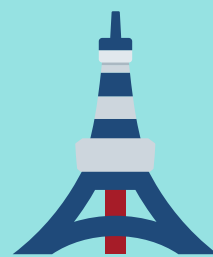
## COLLECT AND SORT

Invite a child to gather a set of objects (5-20) that fall into a broad category such as dolls, balls, Lego pieces, leaves, etc. Ask them to sort the objects to show what makes some the same and others different (size, colour, shape, use, etc). Be sure to have them tell you why they sorted them in that way. Ask if they can sort to help them organize in other situations, for example putting toys away.



## CREATE A STRUCTURE

Offer a child some materials (Lego, blocks, cups, cardboard, etc.) to use to build something that can stand alone. When they are done, ask them to describe the structure (how tall, long, wide, big, or small) and how its design helps to make it stand alone. If the structure is wobbly, ask how it can be changed to stand alone better.



## TELL A STORY

Invite a child to draw or create an object that fits a theme (holiday, season, sport) and encourage them to bring the object to life. What might the object do, where would it go, might it have a family, how would it live? Have them tell a story about the life of the object to show how it fits the theme.



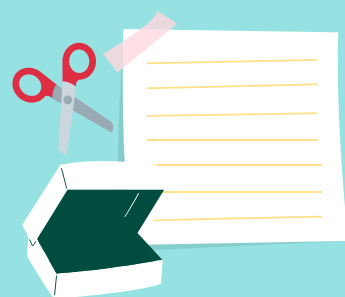
## MOVE IT

Show a child a big heavy object that is difficult, but not impossible, and safe to move. Invite them to find a way that would help move the object. Encourage them not to give up and to use anything they can think of to help. If they get stuck, offer a few suggestions. When they are done, ask them to explain why something worked.



## MAKE IT FIT

Give a child a piece of paper with a secret on it and a small box to hide it in. Invite them to figure out how it might fit in the box so that it sits on the bottom and the box can stay closed. If the child gets stuck, offer a few suggestions such as folding, rolling, or cutting. Whether it can be done or not, ask the child to talk about what worked the best.



## USE IT ANOTHER WAY

Offer a child a variety of safe materials from your recycle bin. Invite them to create a piece of art that can be hung outside or placed in the garden, a home for a bird, a bird feeder, or wind chime. Once created, have them decide the best place for it. Be sure to have them explain why they chose that location.



## SCAVENGER HUNT

Invite a child to go outside and see how many natural objects they can find that take on a particular colour or shape. Have them bring a pad of paper and pencil so that they can draw or tally the numbers as they see them. When they return, ask what are the most common colours or shapes.

