

Under Construction

SPOTLIGHT

In Under Construction, children will get to participate in building activities that put their constructing and engineering skills to the test!

KEY FOCUSES:

1. Encourage children to think creatively and to do their best
2. Create an engaging atmosphere that gets children excited to build and interact with the activity
3. Challenge the children to think critically and to think “outside the box” when building the towers

ACTIVITY #1: TOWER POWER

Set-Up:

- Children will be split up into 3 even groups and will each be given a “Construction Site” (table) to begin building at for the day
- The following supplies will be at the corresponding tables:
 - Tower Station #1: Pool noodle pieces, lego pieces, wooden blocks
 - Tower Station #2: Plastic cups, small wooden squares, and popsicle sticks
 - Tower Station #3: Spaghetti noodles, marshmallows, index card, oreos, gumdrops

Instructions:

1. Split the children up in to three even groups and have each group start at one of the three “Construction Sites”
2. Children will be given 10-12 minutes at each station to see who in their group can build the TALLEST tower(s), most creative tower, most detailed tower, etc.
3. Each station will have different supplies and offer a variety of opportunities for them to build creatively
4. Have fun building at each Station!
5. Make sure to rotate children between the stations at the right time to allow for equal time building.
6. When time is coming to an end of each rotation, the Activity Leader or Volunteer will go around and award the children for categories such as Tallest Tower, Most Creative, and Best Design, etc.

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Tower Station #1: Pool Noodle Pieces

1. Children will be in groups of two for this activity.
2. Children will be given a tub of pool noodle pieces and other building supplies.
3. For the first round of this activity, Children will be using the pool noodle pieces to see who can build the TALLEST tower with just the pool noodle pieces.
 - a. In order for a tower to count as “built”, it must stay standing for at least three seconds without a child holding it.
4. Continue this activity for multiple rounds!
5. Next, add in the connector pieces and pool noodles to have them build and construct different structures, animals, towers, etc.

Tower Station #2: Cups and Popsicle Sticks

1. Each child will use the popsicle sticks and the plastic cups to create different structures and towers.
 - a. At first, this may seem tricky, but the possibilities of structures are infinite.
2. The children’s towers must be able to balance on the small cube (for younger children, no cube is needed to make the activity easier).

Tower Station #3: Candy Mountain

1. Each child will have 20 marshmallows, 20 gumdrops, and 5 oreos, and a large amount of spaghetti noodles.
2. Children will see who can build the tallest structure!
3. For variations, give children more or less marshmallows and toothpicks, have them build different shapes, etc.



Helpful Tips:

- Create an atmosphere of fun and healthy competition between children to see who can build the tallest structures.
- Create an example of a tower to show the children an idea of what their tower could look like.

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HUDDLE

Activity Verse: Luke 6:46-48

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”

Activity Truth: God is Our Strong Foundation

What did you enjoy about the activities today? What made your structure stand strong? That’s right! A foundation!

Just like when building structures with pool noodles, cups, or even candy, you must have a strong foundation to make sure you are steady in life. God wants us to build our foundation on his teaching so that we are not washed away by the ways of the world.

What are some ways we can build our foundation on God – our steady and strong rock?