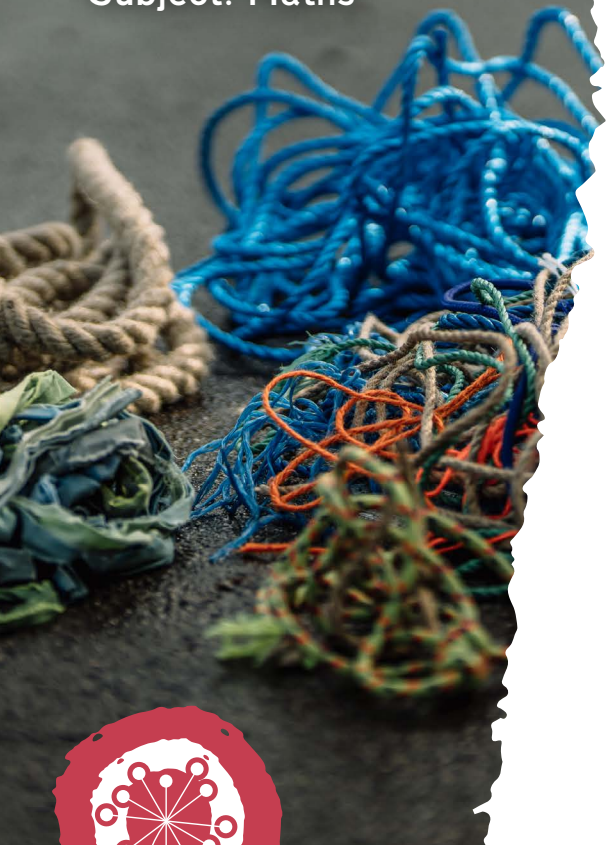


Early Years
Subject specific

Building bridges

Age: 2-5

Subject: Maths



Overview

- This fun activity is all about testing different materials for their size and strength to get across an obstacle. Begin by using low materials on the ground and extend to building a bridge that's raised over an obstruction such as a puddle.

Equipment

- A range of different sized materials and loose parts e.g. wooden planks/discs, tyres, tarpaulins, buckets, carpet squares, and pipes

Activity

- Start by explaining to children that the ground can no longer be stepped on (perhaps it's shark infested water or a toxic lava field!) and they need to create a bridge to get across the area without touching the floor.
- Encourage children to choose materials to balance on, working together to get their whole group from one side to the other without toppling onto the ground.
- Develop the activity by challenging children to make a bridge that is raised off the ground - perhaps over a puddle if it has been raining! Make sure children test that the bridge can hold their weight before walking across it.
- If you only have small loose parts, try making a bridge to hold the weight of a teddy instead.

Check for understanding

- Which materials fit the most children?
- Which materials were the strongest?
- How did you test that your bridge was strong enough to walk across?
- How could you make your bridge strong enough

for an adult to walk across?

- Think about bridges that you know and what they are used for. What obstacles do they cross? What materials are they made from?

Learning outcomes

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Play types | Locomotor - climbing and balancing on different materials and bridges Communication - talking to each other about how to solve the problem together |
| Motor skills | Allowing children to carry heavier items develops strength and manipulative skills |
| Literacy and mathematics | Think about stories we know that feature bridges (e.g. Three Billy Goats Gruff) and tell them sitting on or around the bridge Set maths challenges, such as making the longest, shortest, or tallest bridge |
| Self-directed learning | Encourage children to discuss the different types of materials and what they are best used for Discuss and share pictures of different local, national, or international bridges, and ask children if they can use materials to recreate them |



Learning
through
Landscapes

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