

## Overview

This activity focuses on supporting children to test different materials for their size and strength and, therefore, their use in getting over an obstacle, for example a puddle.



## Activities

- Create a 'flat' bridge to cross an area without touching the floor.
- Encourage children to choose materials to balance on and get everyone involved from one side to the other.
- Develop the activity by challenging children to make a bridge over an obstacle, like a puddle.
- Make sure children test that the bridge can hold their weight before walking across it.

## Equipment

- A range of 'bridges', for example:
- Wooden planks
- Tyres
- Tarpaulins
- Buckets
- Carpet squares

## Key Questions

*Which materials are the strongest?*

*How will you test your bridge is strong enough to walk across?*

*Which materials fit the most children on?*

*What materials are real bridges made from and why?*

## The Benefits

This activity supports a wide range of skills and learning outcomes – teamwork, problem solving, gross motor skills (balancing and carrying), communication skills, weight and measurement, positional language, shape

## Progression in Learning

- Link to stories that feature bridges.
- Set challenges, 'Can we build the longest/shortest/tallest bridge?'
- Share pictures of real-life bridges focusing on materials and shape