

Unit 3: Construction

WEEK 1 Day 2

Blocks: Inspired by Our Town

Children build different kinds of structures inspired by photographs of their town/ neighborhood.

Big Idea	The process of design and construction includes imagining and being inspired, asking questions, researching, planning, creating, and improving our models. This process includes time to work alone and with others.
Guiding Question	Where do people find inspiration for building, creating, and composing?
Vocabulary	construction: the process of making or building; something that is made or built design: to draw something before it is built research: to find out about a topic structure: something that is built
Materials and Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● unit blocks● Our Town/Neighborhood Structures images (some provided)● engineering design process visuals slides <p>Add to the provided images and slides some images of structures that may be familiar and relevant to the children in the particular classroom community. Display the images in the Blocks Center. If possible, project slides onto a nearby wall. Also in the Blocks Center, display the steps for the Engineering Design Process.</p>
Intro to Centers	<p><i>We are reading the Three Little Pigs and learning about construction. We are going to follow the Engineering Design Process to see the steps that engineers and architects use when they design.</i></p> <p>Show the visuals steps and read through them one at a time:</p> <p>ASK: What am I trying to accomplish? How have others approached it? Research.</p> <p>IMAGINE: What are some solutions? Brainstorm ideas. Choose the best one.</p>

	<p>PLAN: Draw a diagram. Make lists of needed materials. CREATE: Follow the plan and create something. Test it out. IMPROVE: What works? What doesn't? What could work better? Modify the design to make it better. Test it out.</p> <p><i>This week you are going to practice some of the steps. One step is to ask yourself what you are trying to do. What do you think the three Little Pigs asked themselves?</i></p> <p>Harvest a few responses.</p> <p><i>Another step is imagine: picture in your mind what you want to build. The three little pigs had ideas about what they wanted to build.</i></p> <p><i>We have some images of structures in our town/neighborhood n to inspire your construction with blocks.</i></p> <p>Show a few images and allow children to make connections. <i>Sometimes when you ask questions and imagine you can do research to figure out your ideas. You can look at images or books.</i></p> <p>Think, Pair, Share. <i>Take a close look at these photographs and then talk to a partner about what ideas it gives you, what they inspire you to build.</i></p> <p><i>As you begin your work look at the images as a way to research what interests you. Imagine how you might build your structure and what blocks you might use.</i></p> <p>Show some of the blocks available to children.</p> <p><i>Remember to talk with your friends and work together on your structures.</i></p>
During Centers	<p>As children begin to work, encourage them to refer to the Engineering Design Process and to use the images as a way to research ideas for building. Invite children to imagine what to build and to think about the types of blocks they might use for a particular structure. Remind children about working together as a team.</p>
Facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How can the Engineering Design Process help you as you work on your structure? ● What do you notice in the photographs that inspires you? ● How does researching for ideas help you to imagine what to build? ● What do you imagine you want to build? ● How are you choosing the types of blocks to use for your structure? ● How are you collaborating?

Standards	SL.1.K.a Participate in collaborative conversations about kindergarten topics and texts with peers, and adults in small and larger groups.
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Notes
