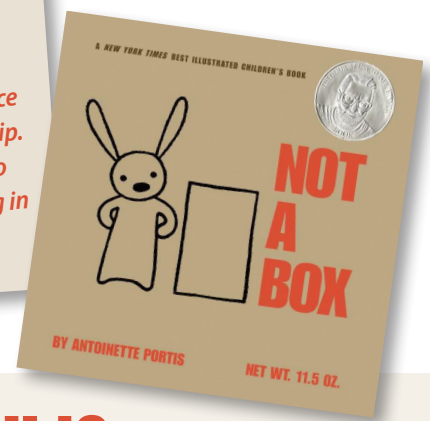




Bunny has a strong imagination. Certainly his box is "not a box." It's a race car and a mountain and a spaceship. This award-winning book is sure to be a hit with kids who love playing in and around boxes.



Before Reading the Book

Look at the cover together. What information can you get from the cover?

- What is the title of the book?
- Look at the illustration on the cover. What do you think this book will be about?
- What do you think the shiny sticker on the cover means?

While Reading the Book

Help children start to understand the reading process by running your finger under the words as you read them. This shows children that we read books left to right. Read the text with expression and ask questions as you read. You may want to ask questions like the one below:

- What do you think bunny is pretending that the box is this time?

After Reading the Book

You can help a child build reading comprehension by going back through the book together. Look at the illustrations on each page and ask the child to tell you what is happening. You can also ask questions about the book:

- Which "not a box" is your favorite?
- What else can a box be?

Continue the fun by doing one of the Literacy, Science, Engineering, Math, Creative Arts, Games and Movement, or Rhymes and Songs extension activities in this guide.

What Can You Build?

Stacking boxes requires planning so that structures don't collapse. Allow children to experiment with a variety of box sizes and learn through failure.

MATERIALS:

- Boxes in various sizes

DIRECTIONS:

- Put the boxes out and allow children to build whatever they want.
- Be sure to allow plenty of time for self-discovery. Celebrate when towers collapse, and celebrate when structures stand tall.

QUESTIONS:

- What types of boxes are best to use on the bottom? Why?
- What did you build? How does it work?

EXTENSION:

- Build a mountain to correspond with the second imaginative use of a box in "Not a Box."



Paint Marbles

MATERIALS:

- Shoebox or another small cardboard box
- Paint
- Marbles

DIRECTIONS:

- Put a small dab of paint in all four corners of the box.
- Add a couple marbles into the box.
- Gently shake the box to see what you can create.
- Carefully remove the marbles and let the paint dry.

QUESTION:

- Does your painting look like anything?

What's in the Box?

Encourage kids to use their sense of touch to build observation skills.

MATERIALS:

- Empty tissue boxes (the square-size boxes are better than the short, long boxes)
- A variety of objects that are familiar to children (a crayon, a ping pong ball, a pine cone, a matchbox car, etc.)

DIRECTIONS:

- Put one object inside each empty tissue box.
- Teach the kids to put their hand inside the box without pulling out the object.
- Encourage them to use their hand to feel the object and try to guess what it is before seeing it.
- Once they have guessed, have them pull out the object to see if they are correct.

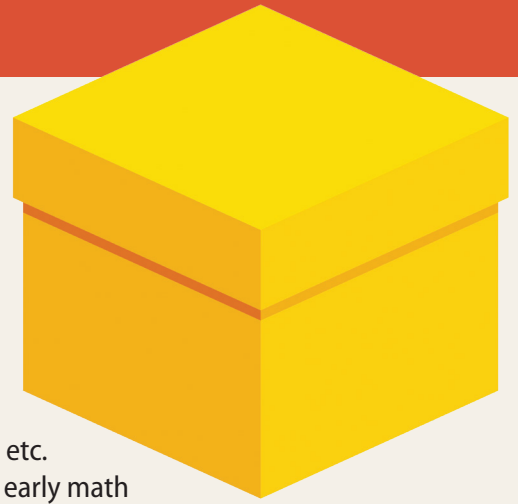
QUESTIONS:

- Before they pull the object out – What do you feel?
- Why did you make the guess you made?



Compare Size

Young kids can start learning about size differences. Be sure to use words like smaller, smallest, bigger, largest, etc. Talking about sizes is an early math skill.

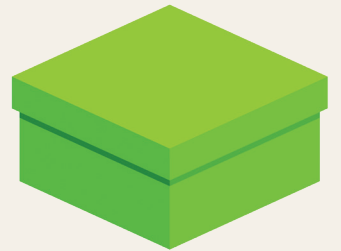


MATERIALS:

- At least two different-size boxes
- A collection of objects that will fill the larger box (a bunch of stuffed animals, a stack of books, toy balls, etc.)

DIRECTIONS:

- Before doing anything else with the boxes, talk about them. Which one is bigger? Which one is taller?
- Talk about which one will hold more stuffed animals, books, balls, etc. Why do you think that?
- Fill one box with objects. Count how many that box holds.
- Fill the other box with objects. Count how many that box holds.
- Which one held more? Were you correct in which one you thought would hold more?



EXTENSION:

- If possible, find two boxes that hold the same volume but have different dimensions. You might find one that is short and wide and another that is tall and thin. Talk about which one is "bigger." Many kids may say that the taller box is bigger. Experiment with the boxes to see if one holds more objects than the other. This could get interesting because the tall and thin box might not be able to fit a large elephant stuffed animal whereas the short and wide one can.
- This activity can also be done with two plastic containers that hold the same volume but have different shapes. You can demonstrate how they both hold the same amount of water.
- Use four or more boxes of varying sizes. Put the boxes in order from shortest to tallest and smallest to biggest.

