

Learning *at Home*

10 Ways to Use a Cardboard Box

There are so many ways to spark children's interest and learning. With these unique, open-ended activities using household materials, children (and adults) can explore concepts of science, math, art, language and so much more. Note that these suggestions will give you a place to start and can lead in many directions based on children's interests. For additional Learning At Home ideas, visit our [Family Resource page](#).

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There are endless opportunities to create using cardboard.

- ▶ Build a fort, castle, rocket ship or wherever your imagination takes you. See our tips below for ideas on how to make an amazing fort!
- ▶ Using a pizza box or create a box with large lid similar to a pizza box, line inner lid with felt and then children can create characters out of felt to make a portable felt board.
- ▶ Create a home for stuffed animals or dolls.
- ▶ Make a marble maze (or ball for smaller children to avoid choking hazard) or a maze for people.
- ▶ Tape cardboard pieces on the underside of a table (coffee table is ideal) and have children draw and paint from a different perspective.
- ▶ Create instruments adding string, twine, tape, rubber bands, paperclips, ribbons, and more.
- ▶ Build a space for matchbox cars whether it is a racetrack, a car wash or a garage using a box and stacked paper towel tubes.
- ▶ Punch holes or create slots and insert knotted yard or thread to create a loom, tying laces practice, or creative design canvas.
- ▶ Cut holes in the tops of two boxes, space them apart, and add beanbags for a fun-filled game of corn hole.
- ▶ Inspire an older child with this video of [Caine's Arcade](#). Watch it together and challenge your child to see what they can build!

How to Make an Amazing Fort

Anything that children enjoy doing becomes even more fun when inside a homemade tent!

- ▶ To build a fort, you can cut the box up in pieces and use Velcro pieces or duct tape to hold the pieces together in a new shape. Or you can simply provide a pile of sheets, large and small boxes, and even a few moveable chairs. Encourage your children to drape the sheets over the furniture to create a fort, home, or whatever their imagination envisions.
- ▶ Provide some quilts, blankets, or sleeping bags to create cozy spaces inside.
- ▶ Set up a stack of board games outside the structure and encourage children to play them inside.
- ▶ Put a basket of books and flashlights inside the structure.
- ▶ Add blocks, cars, dolls, and more to create a city within the structure.
- ▶ Set up clipboards with paper and provide markers or pencils.
- ▶ Write notes, slip them inside, and create a mail system between you and your children.
- ▶ Eat snack or another meal in the structure.