

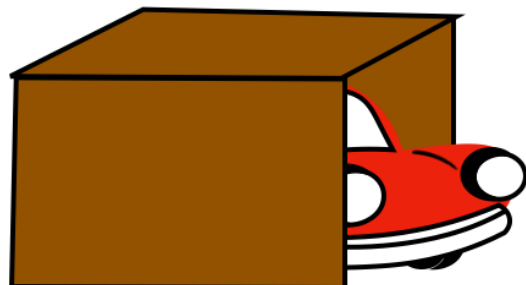
Storytelling Structures

Inspired by *What Will Fit?* by Grace Lin

Goal: Create a story while building a structure.

You will need:

- Objects to use (blocks, toilet paper rolls, cereal boxes, etc.)



What to do (Infants and Toddlers):

- Encourage your baby to build.
- As they build, talk about what they are doing. Things to talk about could include:
 - Positional words: “You placed a block **on top** of the cereal box.”
 - Shape identification: “That block is a cube, and you are putting it in a rectangular box.” (Point to the shapes as you say them).
 - Color identification: “The cereal box has many colors on it. Can you see blue and red?” (Point to the colors as you say them).
- You can even make up a story for your baby as they explore building, knocking things down, and moving objects around one another.

What to do (Preschool and up):

- Before building, ask your child to think about and create a plan for what they would like to build or make. It could be a garage for a toy car, a house for a stuffed animal, a tower, etc.
- Start building!
- As they build, ask your child questions about their structure. For example: what features they are including, what the use of the structure will be, and what they like about their structure.
- Encourage them to create their own story! Ask your child to write it down and tell a friend or family member the story!

To think about:

- Encourage your child to use positional words while telling their story.
- Together identify the shapes, colors, and other features used while building.