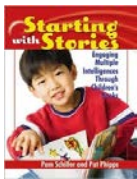


Resources for a Construction Themed Storytime

Resource Books

Starting With Stories: Engaging Multiple Intelligences Through Children's Books

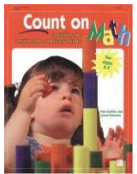


by Pam Schiller and Pat Phipps

Pam Schiller's Starting With Stories is an excellent resource to use in developing storytimes for the diverse audiences you will encounter in public libraries. While it doesn't include any construction specific themes, with a little brainstorming you can easily find ideas that work. Construction makes me think of shapes, measurement, getting dirty, working with your hands, and creating things. With those themes in mind here are some fun activities from this book that you could include in your "Construction" storytime:

- Page 43: These activities are designed to go with the book, Busy Fingers, but can easily be adapted for a Construction storytime.
- Pages 67 and 185: The activities on these pages are all about creating things out of dots and circles.
- Page 69: The activities on this page are meant to go with the book, Dream Carver. They include instructions on how to make sawdust dough, a perfect activity for a Construction theme.

Count on Math: Activities for Small Hands and Lively Minds by Pam Schiller and

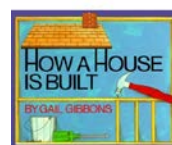
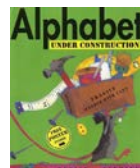
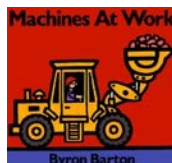


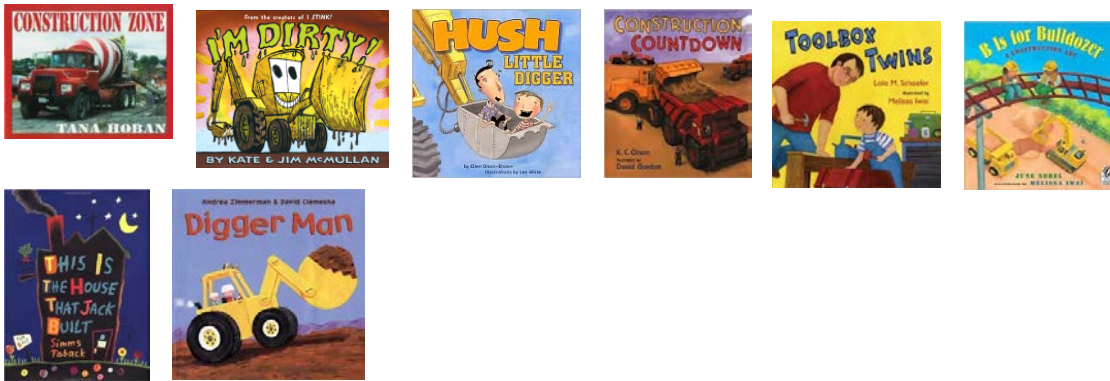
Lynne Peterson

Count on Math includes hundreds of activities, many of which can be used in a construction themed program. Concepts like exploration of materials, spatial relationships, patterning, ordering, shapes, and measurement are explored in fun activities that teach mathematical concepts. Each chapter also includes "Circle Time Stories" that can be used to reinforce the mathematical concepts during storytime.

- Some fun activities that can be used for a construction theme include:
- "Twin Towers" page 95: Build a structure in the block center using a simple pattern and let children create structures copying the pattern you used.
 - "Sandy Textures" page 147: Cut sandpaper into squares. Encourage the children to feel the textures, describe them and arrange them from fine to course textures.
 - "Build a Triangle" page 191: Encourage children to make triangles with the straws and use the playdough to hold the corners together. Ask the children to describe their work in terms of numbers of sides and corners.

Construction Books





Building a House by Byron Barton
Machines at Work by Byron Barton
One Big Building: A Counting Book About Construction by Michael Dahl
Alphabet Under Construction by Denise Fleming
Tip Tip, Dig Dig by Emma Garcia
How a House is Built by Gail Gibbons
Construction Zone by Tana Hoban
I'm Dirty! by Kate and Jim McMullan
Hush Little Digger by Ellen Olson-Brown
Construction Countdown by K.C. Olson
Toolbox Twins by Lola Schaefer
B is for Bulldozer: A Construction ABC by June Sobel
This is the House That Jack Built by Simms Taback
Digger Man by Andrea Zimmerman and David Clemesha

Songs and Fingerplays

A House for Me

The carpenter's hammer
 Goes rap, rap, rap, *pound hand with fist*
 And his saw goes see, saw, see,
Move arm in sawing motion
 He hammers and hammers, *hammer*
 And he saws and saws, *saw*
 And he builds a house for me.
Make house out line with fingers

Steam Shovel

Here is a steam shovel. *Hold right forearm erect, hand drooping*
 And here is the ground. *two arms enclose area*
 See the great boom *right elbow stationary, forearm moving side to side*
 Swing round and round.
 It dips, it, bites, *forearms dips, thumb and fingers in grasping motion*
 It lifts, it throws, *forearm lifts, thumb and fingers spin*
 My, how the hole

In the ground grows! *two hands enclose circle*
Digging, scooping,
Lifting, throwing,
See how the hill *forearms with hands meeting*
Beside it is growing.

Johnny's Hammers

Verse One:

(Make hamering motion with one fists)

Johnny had one hammer, one hammer, one hammer

Johnny had one hammer then he had Two

Verse Two:

(Make hamering motion with both fists)

Johnny had two hammers, two hammers, two hammers,

Johnny had two hammers then he had Three.

Verse Three:

(Makre motion with both fists and one leg.)

Johnny had three hammers, three hammers, three hammers,

Johnny had three hammers then he had Four

Verse Four:

(Makre motion with both fists and both legs)

Johnny had four hammers, four hammers, four hammers,

Johnny had four hammers then he had Five

Verse Five:

(Makre motion with both fists and both legs and head.)

Johnny had five hammers, five hammers, five hammers

Johnny had five hammers, then he went to sleep (lay hands like sleeping)

Noisy Nails

I use my hammer and five nails

Hold up five fingers.

That's too noisy, my neighbor yells

Yell

I'll hammer them now before it's night! 1,2,3,4,5

Pretend to hammer.

And to my neighbor I'll be polite!

Bow

Construction Worker Song

This is the way we pound our nails,

pound our nails, pound our nails,

This is the way we pound our nails, so early in the morning.

This is the way we saw our wood,

Saw our wood, saw our wood.

This is the way we saw our wood, so early in the morning.

This is the way we use a screwdriver,

use a screwdriver, use a screwdriver,
This is the way we use a screwdriver, so early in the morning.
This is the way we drill a hole,
drill a hole, drill a hole,
This is the way we drill a hole, so early in the morning.

Saw the wood

Turn the screw

Stack the bricks

Paint the walls

Stir the paint

I Want To Be A Carpenter

I want to be a carpenter and work the whole day long.
I'll use a great big box of tools; my arms are very strong
First, I'll saw and saw and saw, and cut the boards in two
Little boards and big boards-all kinds of boards will do.
I'll plane and plane and plane the boards for everyone is rough.
Back and forth I'll plane the boards until they're smooth enough.
I'll measure them and measure them - each one down to a T
And then I'll start to build a house for me up in a tree!

Carpenter

This is the way he saws the wood

Making saw motion

Sawing, sawing, sawing.

This is the way he hammers the nail

Making hammering motion

Hammering, hammering, hammering.

This is the way he paints the house

Making a brushing motion

Painting, painting, painting.

Did You Ever See?

Did you ever see a builder, a builder, a builder
Did you ever see a builder saw this way and that?
Saw this way and that way, saw this way and that way
Did you ever see a builder saw this way and that.

Did you ever see a painter A painter A painter
Did you ever see a painter brush this way and that
Brush this way and that way brush this way and that way
Did you ever see a painter brush this way and that.

My Little House

I'm going to build a little house
With windows wide and bright

Stretch arms out to sides
With chimney tall and curling smoke
Rising out of sight
Spiral hands upward.
In winter when the snowflakes fall
Or when I hear a storm
Cup hand behind ear
I'll go and sit inside my house
Where I'll be snug and warm.
Hug self

Building a House

Building a house is lots of work
Wipe brow
First, you dig up lots of dirt
Pretend to dig
Then you pour a concrete floor,
Touch floor
And pound up boards with nails galore.
Pretend to hammer
Doors and windows go in fast
Draw squares in air with finger
Now your house is done at last.
Clasp hands together above head

Five Little Hammers

One little hammer went tap, tap, tap
Tapping on a nail
But the wood was much too hard
So he called for a little help.

Two little hammers went tap, tap, tap,
Tapping on a nail
But the wood was much too hard
So he called for a little help.

Three little hammers went tap, tap, tap,
Tapping on a nail
But the wood was much too hard
So he called for a little help.

Four little hammers went tap, tap, tap,
Tapping on a nail
But the wood was much too hard
So he called for a little help.

Five little hammers went tap, tap, tap,
Tapping on a nail
But the wood was much too hard
So he called for a little help.

A great big hammer when
POUND! POUND! POUND!
Pounding on a nail
but the little hammers all laughed
When the nail just bent in half!

By Deborah J. Stewart

Find the music here if you want to sing it:

<http://littlefingersplay.blogspot.com/2010/02/one-little-hammer.html>

Stack the Blocks

The Ants Go Marching In

We stack the blocks one-by-one

Hurrah! Hurrah!

We stack the blocks one-by-one

Hurrah! Hurrah!

We stack the blocks one-by-one

We are having so much fun

Then they all go tumbling down – to the ground

Boom, Boom, Boom!

Repeat and change verses to two-by-two, three-by-three and so on...

By Deborah J. Stewart

Shapes Songs (Shapes are an essential part of construction and can make an excellent extension to a construction themed storytime)

Make a Shape

Frere Jacques

Make a circle,

Make a circle.

Draw it now, draw it now.

A circle has no corners,

A circle has no corners.

It is round, it is round.

Make a square,

Make a square.

Draw it now, draw it now.

A square has four corners.

And its sides are equal.

All the same, all the same.

Make a triangle,

Make a triangle.

Draw it now, draw it now.
A triangle has three corners,
Two sides and a bottom.
Two sides down, one across.
Make a rectangle,
Make a rectangle.
Draw it now, draw it now.
A rectangle has four sides,
Two long and two short ones.
Long and short, long and short.

Shapes Hokey Pokey

You put your circle in,
You put your circle out,
You put your circle in and you shake it all about.
You do the shape pokey and you turn yourself around.
That's what it's all about!

I'm a Little Triangle

I'm a little triangle,
Yes, siree.
I have three sides,
As you can see.
I can be a tree,
Or slice of pie.
I'm lots of fun.
Give me a try!

If You Like a Shape

If you like a shape that's round, clap your hands.
If you like a shape that's round, clap your hands.
If you like a shape that's round and rolls along the ground,
If you like a shape that's round, clap your hands.

If you like a shape that's square, stomp your feet.
If you like a shape that's square, stomp your feet.
If you like a shape that's square like that window over there,
If you like a shape that's square, stomp your feet.

If you like a shape that's a rectangle, shout "Hooray!"
If you like a shape that's a rectangle, shout "Hooray!"
If you like a rectangle shapes, we should see it on your face!
If you like a shape that's a rectangle, shout "Hooray!"

If you like all kinds of shapes, do all three!
If you like all kinds of shapes, do all three!

If you like all kinds of shapes, c'mon, let's celebrate!
If you like all kinds of shapes, do all three!

Flannelboards, Manipulatives, and Props

- **What a Mess!** Students help organize this messy toolbox so that all the tools are easy to find! In advance, color and cut out several tagboard copies of the tools. Place the tools in a real toolbox in a haphazard manner, making sure that each tool is represented a different number of times. Open up the toolbox; then describe with great dramatic flair how messy the toolbox is. Have little ones help you remove the tools from the toolbox and sort them into groups. Then lead students in counting each group and comparing the results, using words such as more and less. Finally, have students help you place the tools back in the toolbox in a more organized fashion.
- **Four Big Machines:** Color and cut out a copy of the construction vehicle cards, then place the cards on the floor. Lead students in reciting the rhyme provided, encouraging a different youngster to remove each vehicle from the group when appropriate.

*(Four) big machines at the construction site
Worked, worked, worked with all (their) might!
The foreman called the (dump truck) away.
Then (three) big machines were left that day.
...bulldozer, roller, excavator...*

Sensory and Movement Activities

- **Class House**
Make the shape of a house on a large piece of paper. Cut out bricks, shingles, etc from construction paper. Then let the children work as a group to finish the house. Don't forget to have them to add windows and doors.
- **Popsicle/Craft Stick Fun**
Bring out the popsicle or craft sticks and let the kids create. Use play dough as the "glue" that holds the sticks together. Allow to dry. Kids could also paint and decorate their creations!
- **Happy Hammering:** Place a slab of playdough on a table and put a toy hammer and ten golf tees nearby. Gather youngsters around the table and demonstrate how to line up all of the golf tees in the playdough by pushing them in just far enough so that they stay in place. Next, give a child a hammer and encourage him to hammer the golf tees from left to right as you lead the students in counting to ten. Show children how to remove the tees and smooth out the dough.

- Tell or read the story of the Three Little Pigs with a flannel board set. Display props such as straw, sticks, and a brick. By touching & handling these materials the children can better understand why bricks are the strongest of these building materials.
- **Buried Treasures**
Bury small treasures in a sand table or plastic bin filled with sand. Provide your children with toy dump trucks and bulldozers in order for them to excavate the treasures.

Craft Ideas

Templates for all crafts are located in the folder and on the flash drive.

Blueprints

What You Need:

- Blue Paper
- White Colored Pencils/Crayons
- Rulers

What You Do:

- Provide the children with the materials along with some real blueprints to look at. Then let them create their own blueprints

Marshmallow Building

What You Need:

- Marshmallows
- Toothpicks

What You Do:

- Allow your children to design and then build a building using marshmallows and toothpicks

Crayon Trucks

Tape different color crayons to the back of construction vehicles. Let the children draw on paper by driving the vehicles.

Sawdust Pictures

Let the kids get creative with sawdust and a bit of glue! Using a piece of colored construction paper, let the kids drizzle, paint with a brush, or use their fingers, to create a picture with glue. Sprinkle the sawdust over the glue before it dries. Shake off excess. Let dry.

Shoebbox Tool Box

Provide markers, construction paper, paint, stickers magazine/catalogue cutouts of tools, etc. to decorate their tool boxes. On the side of each box, write the child's name and the words "Tool Box".

Cardboard Tool Cutouts

Cut out or let the kids cut out, tool shapes from heavy cardboard. Paint or decorate the cutouts with markers. Add to their Shoebbox Tool box!!

Geometric Shape Construction

This activity is construction on paper. Cut circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles of different sizes from construction paper, wallpaper, or fabric. Invite the children to glue these onto paper to make pictures of buildings.

Bulldozer Painting

Have the children pretend to be bulldozers while they paint. Supply each child with a piece of finger-paint paper, finger paint, and a wide craft stick. Have each child choose several colors of finger paint to put on the paper. Then show the children how to place the craft stick horizontally on the paper and push the paint - just like a bulldozer! While the children work, encourage them to talk with you about their creations. Help them recognize that they are pushing the paint with the craft stick much like a bulldozer pushes dirt with its blade.

My Toolbox

Template in Resource Guide

Fold a piece of construction paper into three sections to create a toolbox. Make clasps and handle and glue to toolbox. Staple the sides and children can put things in the pocket.



Touch and Feel City



This is a great way to talk about shapes, sizes, and textures. Give your children the materials to build their own city. Put out construction paper, felt, sandpaper, foil, foam or anything else you have around. If your children are under five years old you might want to have shapes pre-cut for them. Children could make their own individual pictures. I have done a night scene here on black paper with glitter stars. You could also do a day scene with light blue paper and cotton ball clouds. Or you could put out a long piece of bulletin board paper and let everyone at storytime work on the same city to display in your library.

You can also do a simpler version of this craft by making a house. Encourage parents and caregivers to talk to their children about the colors and shapes they are using as they work.

