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Activity Guide: Design a Building #CMAathome

We're reading *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site* by Sherri Duskey Rinker and learning about all kinds of hardworking trucks. Each of these trucks helps construct buildings like skyscrapers, homes, and grocery stores and makes sure those buildings are strong and sturdy for us to live, work, and play. In order to do that, those trucks use building supplies like bricks, mortar, and cement.

Now, let's construct our own strong and sturdy building!

Materials Needed:

Toothpicks

Gumdrops

Directions:

Step 1. Use your gumdrops to connect your toothpicks. The gumdrops are going to act like mortar and hold our toothpicks in place.

Step 2. Design a building. See how tall or wide you can make it. How many floors does it have? Can you make a roof?

Step 3. Test your design. Place your building on a plate, then use your hands to slide the plate back and forth quickly. What happened? Was your building sturdy enough to last through a storm?



Step 4. Rebuild your design. How can you make it stronger?

Step 5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 as many times as you would like!

Vocabulary Words:

Construction: Construction means to build something. All of the trucks we read about in our book are used to build things, like skyscrapers, homes, and grocery stores. Have you seen any construction sites around Atlanta?

Mortar: Mortar is a wet paste that hardens when it dries. It is used to hold other building materials together, like bricks. Our gumdrops acted like mortar because they held our building materials – toothpicks – together.

Cement: Cement is an ingredient in mortar. It holds the other ingredients together.

Cement Mixer: A cement mixer is a truck that mixes together cement and other ingredients like sand, gravel, and water. Cement mixers can make concrete and mortar.

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