

3. Building and making

These two activities invite children to plan and problem solve as they make structures for different situations.

OBJECTIVES

- To identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, paper and cardboard for particular uses.

An **additional activity** can be carried out in which children **build deck chairs**. Challenge them to make a deck chair in a fixed position. More able children could try making a folding chair. You could also give a limited set of materials to each child or group, or ask the children to make a chair to seat a particular doll or teddy.

Children make the deck chairs using construction kits, lolly sticks or plastic art straws. Displaying a real deck chair in the construction area will allow children to look closely at its structure.

A piece of fabric is attached to the frame, using staples, glue or a needle and thread. Test the deck chairs with the whole class by seating the doll or teddy on each chair to observe the strength and stability. Any folding chairs can be adjusted to observe their effectiveness.

Display the deck chairs in a large tray of sand, along with other beach ware, such as balls, buckets, spades, etc.

Additional Resources

construction kits, such as Mobilo or Lego lolly sticks
plastic art straws PVA glue stapler needle & thread off cuts of fabric doll or teddy deck chair-optional

MARKET STALLS

Key ideas:

- A market stall must be stable
- A market stall must be strong.

The poem 'Feasts' is beautifully illustrated with a market stall heavily laden with all its produce. Discuss the market stall with the children, and the term 'market barrow' used in the poem. Although market barrows are rarely seen today, children may be familiar with wheel barrows, and be able to offer some suggestions about what the market barrows might look like and be used for.

Also discuss important properties of a market stall, including:

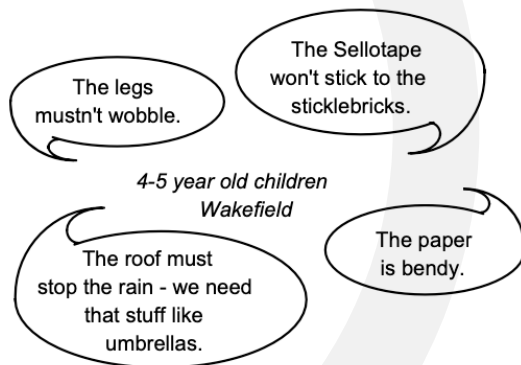
- Stability of the structure, to prevent the fruit and vegetables rolling off
- Strength of the structure, to hold a large amount of fruit and vegetables
- A roof to keep the market trader and the produce dry
- Wheels to allow the stall to be moved.

Resource ideas:

construction kits, such as Mobilo, Lego or Sticklebricks
wheels lolly sticks art straws PVA glue Sellotape off cuts of fabric plastazote plastic bags card (including boxes) plasticine, clay or playdough

*teacher of 7-9 year olds
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The stipulation that the chair should fold made this a suitable activity for my class. They quickly realised that making it fold was only part of the problem. How do you make a folding chair stand up?



Children then explore the materials available (which may be limited with younger children), before building their stalls. This exploration can be independent or an adult can be present to develop vocabulary, such as stiff, bendy, strong, weak, wobbly and stable.

Children can draw their ideas for using these materials to build a market stall. Drawings and construction of the market stalls are done individually or in groups.



Once the stalls are finished, discuss ideas for how they can be made stronger or more stable. For example, additional supports for the roof or table section, material added to existing supports to give more strength, or supports added to form triangular sections. The number of suggestions you offer the children will depend on their ability.

The strengthened stalls can be displayed with produce made by the children from plasticine, playdough or clay.



Children of Hawes Down Infant School, West Wickham.