

THE *Budding* BUILDER



EDITED BY LAURA LAXTON

The Budding Builder

Edited by Laura Laxton
Illustrated by Kathi Dery

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To the Parents of Budding Builders

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Recommended Books

The children’s books listed in “Books to Enjoy” may include books that are currently out of print. These books can be purchased used or are most likely available in your local library.

Blue, Blue Blueprints

Create your own “blueprints,” and then use them any day to re-create your building plans!

What You'll Need

assorted blocks

blue pen, crayon, or marker

clear contact paper

empty cereal box

markers

poster board or thick paper

Books to Enjoy

Building a House
by Byron Barton

Hillel Builds a House
by Shoshana Lepon

A House for Wally and Me
by Gene Stelten

The House that Max Built
by Susanna Hill

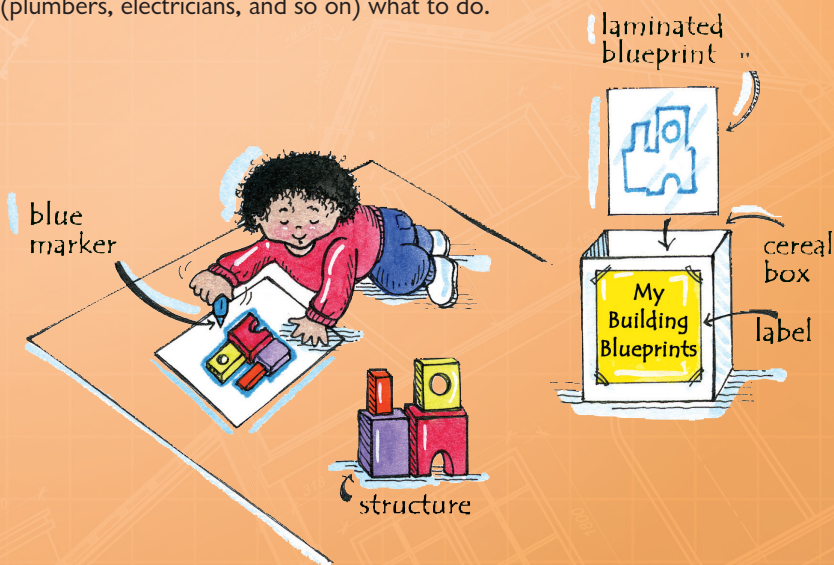
The Little House
by Virginia Lee Burton

Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel
by Virginia Lee Burton

New Kid on the Block
by Jennifer Moore-Mallinos

What to Do

- 1 Use your blocks to build a structure on top of the poster board or thick paper.
- 2 With your blue pen or crayon, trace each block to create a pattern of the first floor of your building. This is a “blueprint.”
- 3 Cover the blueprint with clear contact paper. (You may need adult help with the contact paper.)
- 4 Make as many blueprints as you want to, and store them in an empty cereal box.
Hint: Cover the box with construction paper, and label it “My Construction Plans” or “My Building Blueprints.”
- 5 Next time you are wondering what to do, pull out some blueprints, and try to create the structures. For an even greater challenge, use two blueprints together to create one structure.
- 6 Real builders have to follow patterns, too. Ask an adult to show you a real building blueprint, if possible. Different parts of the blueprint show different workers (plumbers, electricians, and so on) what to do.



Blueprint Books

Make a record of your best block buildings.

What You'll Need

- _____ blocks
- _____ construction paper, the same color as your blocks
- _____ glue
- _____ markers
- _____ paper
- _____ scissors
- _____ stapler

Books to Enjoy

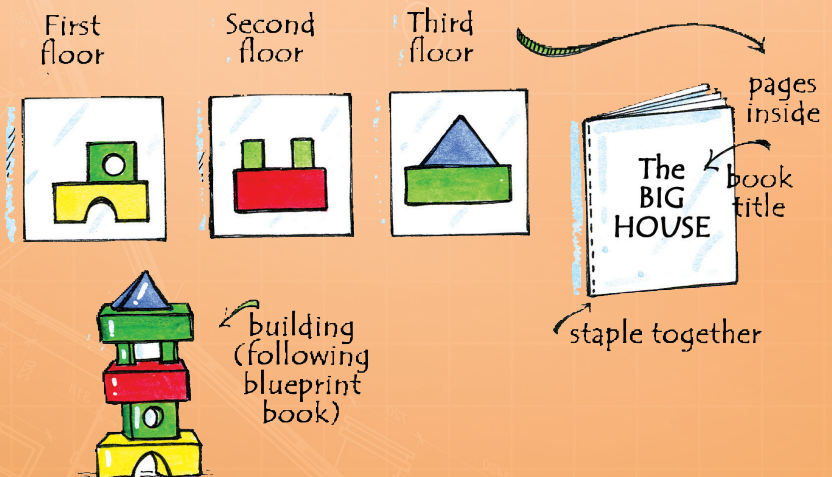
The Lot at the End of My Block
by Kevin Lewis

Machines at Work
by Byron Barton

The New Kid on the Block
by Jack Prelutsky

What to Do

- 1 Trace the different shapes of the blocks on construction paper that matches the color of each block.
- 2 Cut out the paper block shapes.
- 3 Create a building using the blocks.
- 4 Re-create your work by gluing cutouts of the blocks that match the first layer of your building onto a piece of paper, taking care to maintain the same shapes and placement of the blocks. (You may need an adult's help or guidance for this step.)
- 5 Repeat this process on a new piece of paper for the second layer of blocks in your structure.
- 6 Continue with a new sheet of paper for each layer of the building. Label the pages with "first floor," "second floor," and so on.
- 7 Name your creation, and make a cover for the blueprint book. Staple all the pages together.
- 8 If you have enough blocks, try to re-create the building using only the blueprint book, and compare the structure to the one you built in step 3.



"Look What I Built"

Photo Album

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then it's a good idea to show off your work!

What You'll Need

camera

marker or pen

paper (or sticky notes)

photo album

Books to Enjoy

The Block Mess Monster
by Betsy Howie

A Photo for Greta
by Anna Alter

What to Do

- 1 When you create a building or structure that you think is especially wonderful, take a picture of it.
- 2 Print the photos.
- 3 Put a copy of each picture in a photo album.
- 4 Write a caption for each photo on paper or sticky notes, and place the captions under the photos.
- 5 Include names that you create for your buildings and structures, writing the names in each label. (Ask an adult for help with this step, if you need it.)
- 6 Keep the album near your blocks or building materials. From time to time, pull it out and look at your past creations.



Where Do You Live?

Plan and build a model of the kind of home you would like to live in.

What You'll Need

construction paper

construction paper rectangles
and squares

crayons or markers

empty cereal box

glue

scissors

tape

Books to Enjoy

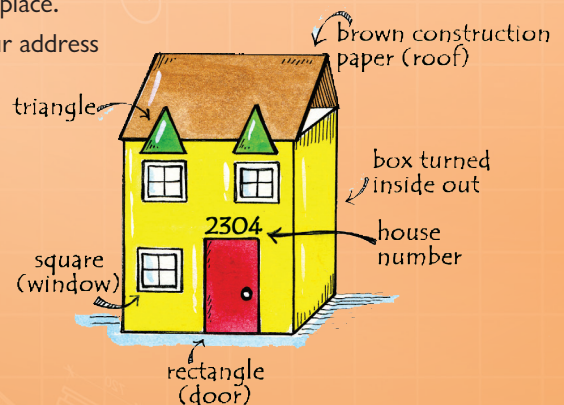
Home by Jeannie Baker

A House Is a House for Me
by Mary Ann Hoberman

*My House: A Book in
Two Languages*
by Rebecca Emberley

What to Do

- 1 Look at or read books about homes.
- 2 Open a cereal box at its seams, and turn it inside out, with the plain side facing out. Reglue the seams and, if necessary, tape the sides. Allow the seams to dry. (You may need help from an adult with this step.)
- 3 Think about the different types of homes in which people live, such as apartments, houses, trailers, and boats. Decide to make a home like the one you live in or make a different home.
- 4 Pick a color you would like the outside of your home to be, and lightly color the box that color.
- 5 If you decide to make an apartment, you may want to decorate the box vertically. If you make a house, you may want to decorate it horizontally. If you make a trailer, you can add wheels to it.
- 6 Draw windows and doors or glue cut-out rectangles and squares on the box. Draw other additions on the house, too. As you work, think about the features you chose for your house and why you chose them.
- 7 Fold a piece of brown construction paper in half vertically to form a roof. Cut it, if necessary, and glue it in place.
- 8 Write the numbers of your address over the front door.



Special Delivery: Blocks!

The fun starts even before you begin building, if you extend your imagination to include moving your building materials.

What You'll Need

large wood or plastic trucks

small blocks

Books to Enjoy

1 Is One by Tasha Tudor

Count! by Denise Fleming

One Big Building: A Counting Book Construction
by Michael Dahl

One Gorilla: A Counting Book
by Atsuko Morozumi

Ten, Nine, Eight by Molly Bang

What to Do

- 1 Carry toy trucks and small blocks outside. Use the trucks to move the blocks to where you want to build.
- 2 Decide what you want to build, where you want to build it (your construction site), and which blocks you need first.
- 3 Count the blocks you need and then use one of your trucks to deliver the blocks to your construction site.
- 4 Build with the first load of blocks. You may want to use a set of blueprints you created (page 10) to make your building.
- 5 On your next trip, put the blocks you need next in the truck, and deliver them to your building site. Count out loud as you load and deliver those blocks.
- 6 Continue delivering loads of blocks to your construction site until your building is finished!

Build a House

Use boxes and tubes to make your own hideaway!

What You'll Need

boxes in a variety of sizes
(shoeboxes, gift boxes,
shipping boxes, appliance
boxes, and any other box that
lends itself to building)

cardboard, bubble wrap, and
any other building materials

duct tape

glue

masking tape

paper-towel tubes and
wrapping-paper tubes

Books to Enjoy

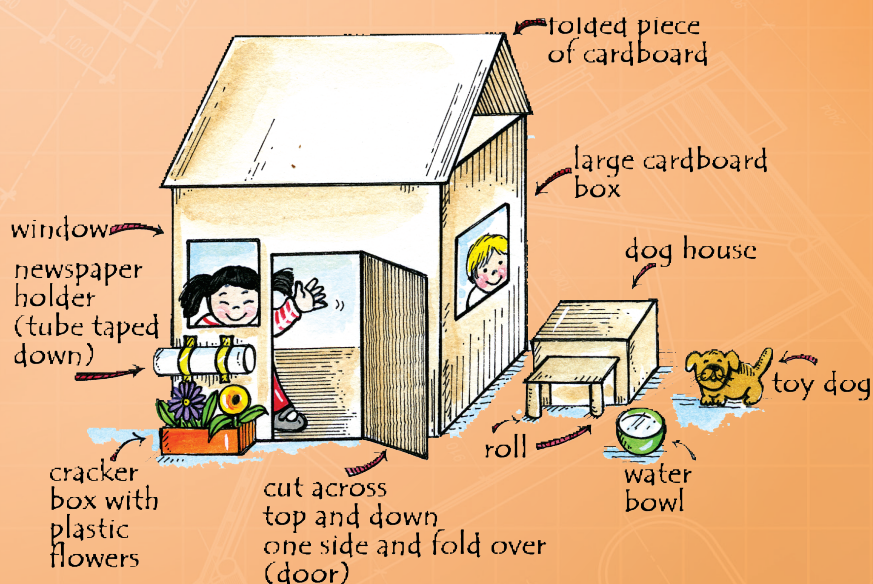
Building a House
by Byron Barton

How a House Is Built
by Gail Gibbons

Playhouse by Robert Munsch

What to Do

- 1 Ask an adult to help you gather a variety of possible building materials that you can use to build a playhouse.
- 2 Work with a friend or adult, and create a structure. While you build, think about the shape of the structure, how you should construct it, and so on. Even if you don't know if something will work, try it anyway and see what happens.
- 3 Once you are happy with your playhouse, add animals, cars, or anything else you might want.
- 4 Play!



Create a Community

Use paper, markers, and your imagination to create your own personal community inside a shoebox.

What You'll Need

construction paper

glue

markers, crayons

scissors

shoebox

Books to Enjoy

Aesop's Fable, "City Mouse and
Country Mouse" (any version)

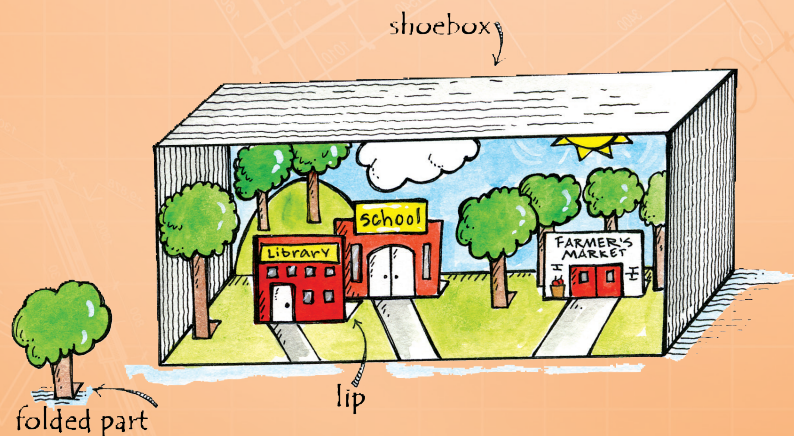
Going Home by Eve Bunting

I Know a Lady
by Charlotte Zolotow

Trashy Town
by Andrea Zimmerman
and David Clemesha

What to Do

- 1 Find a shoebox. If you would like, decorate the outside. Also, think about what buildings and sites you would like to include in the community that you will create in the shoebox.
- 2 Use construction paper and scissors to cut out buildings, trees, landmarks, and so on. (Ask an adult for help with the scissors, if necessary.) Decorate the buildings and other landmarks with the markers, and think about where each building should go in the box.
- 3 Fold the bottoms of your cutouts to form a lip. You can then use those to glue the buildings to the inside of the box.



Try These Ideas!

- Go on a walking tour of your community. Visit places such as the local bakery, police station, fire station, and doctor's office.
- Make a map of your community or neighborhood. Draw streets, buildings, and parks.