

Ever remember giving your child a present for which you were so excited only to have your child play with the box? A favorite toy for any child is a box. There are many things children can do with empty cardboard boxes of any size.

Small Cardboard Boxes

- Make a train.
- Use the boxes as a building block (when they get smashed, just throw them away).
- Build a town—using the different shapes and size boxes to build houses, stores, schools, etc.
- If several boxes are identical, play a matching game.
- Make a road; let your child push small cars on the road.



Medium Cardboard Boxes

- Touch and Feel Box.
 - » Cut a hole in the box big enough for your child's hand to fit through.
 - » Place an object in the box.
 - » Have your child put his hand through the hole to feel the object.
 - » Have your child guess what the object is.
- Play basketball.
 - » Use the box as a hoop.
 - » Have your child toss balls into the box.
- Seek and Find.
 - » Using three cardboard boxes, hide an object under one.
 - » Have your child guess under which box the object is hidden.



Large Cardboard Boxes

- Make a Tunnel.
 - » Open up both ends of the box.
 - » Fold the flaps into the box.
 - » Encourage your child to crawl through the box.
- Make a train.
 - » Allow your child to sit in the box.
 - » Making train sounds, push/pull your child around the room (your child will love it, and you get a "workout").
- Make a house.
 - » Set the box up, so the height is upright.
 - » Cut a door in the box.
 - » If desired, cut windows out of a side.



With all these ideas, the most important thing is to have fun. Your child will enjoy decorating all these boxes with crayons, markers, or paints. Be creative.