



THE IOWA  
CHILDREN'S  
MUSEUM



4Cs  
Community Coordinated  
Child Care

# CREATIVITY

*A little nonsense now and then, is cherished  
by the wisest men.*  
Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the  
Chocolate Factory*

## Dreaming Up by Christy Hale

*Dreaming Up* features children building and children's poetry paired with notable structures from around the world. The story transports children's structures to the level of architectural treasures.

### Explore the Book Ideas:

**Ages: 4 to 6 years**

- Look at the cover of the book together. Talk to the children about buildings and how many different kinds of buildings we see every day. Architects are the people who design buildings, and when architects were children they likely played with building toys. Ask the kids if they like to build things.
- When you see photos of the real buildings, talk with the children about what that particular building might be used for. Is it where people live? Where they work? Where they go to church? Is the building a museum? Collect lots of ideas.

### Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) For each different building, provide materials for your children to create a building that mimics the real structure. Provide 8x11 photos of the real building to inspire the construction.

Building #1: Petronas Twin Towers	Stacking Cups
Building #2: New Gournia Village	Mud Stucco Recipe
Building #3: Box House	Cardboard Boxes (you provide)
Building #4: Yoyogi National Stadium	Fabric (you provide)
Building #5: Falling Water	Blocks of wood (you provide)
Building #6: La Sagrada Familia	Sand molds (you provide)
Building #7: Habitat #67	Legos (you provide)
Building #8: Vitra Fire Station	Playing cards (you provide)
Building #9: Montreal Biosphere	Spaghetti and Playdough (you provide)
Building #10: Bamboo Church	Dowels (you provide)
Building #11: Mars One	Snow balls (you provide)
Building #12: Paper Tube School	Paper tubes (you provide)
Building #13: Sclera Pavilion	Popsicle sticks
Building #14: Guggenheim Museum	Pillows and cushions (you provide)

**Kit Supplies:** stacking cups, popsicle sticks, 8x10 laminated photos of buildings

- 2) Create your own imaginative structure! No limits, no instructions. Just build!

**Kit Supplies:** Brackitz set



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*You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation.*  
Richard Lingard

## Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson

*Harold and the Purple Crayon is an ingenious little picture story about a small boy who goes out for a walk with a crayon in his hand to draw himself some wonderful adventures.*

### Explore the Book Ideas:

**Ages: 3 to 6 years**

- Put a large sheet of butcher paper on the wall and begin your story by drawing the purple line just like Harold and the moon. When Harold leaves the path to take the short cut, you can stop drawing to entice the children into Harold's imaginative adventure.

### Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Ask the kids to say their favorite color. Give each child a crayon in their favorite color; and ask them to draw a picture of an adventure they'd love to have.  
**Kit Supplies:** crayons, art paper
- 2) Use the Story Bag filled with random objects as prompts for children to create their own stories about the object. Kids could work in teams/pairs on this.  
**Kit Supplies:** Story Bag, story objects
- 3) Once children have made their individual "Beth and the Blue Crayon" stories, use a whiteboard (with colors permanently marked on the left side of the board) to graph the favorite colors of your children. Ask the children to draw a circle with a dry erase marker next to their favorite color. Which color is most popular? Which colors aren't anyone's favorites?  
**Kit Supplies:** White board (with color graph), dry erase markers





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*This is the real secret of life – to be completely engaged with what you are doing in the here and now. And instead of calling it work, realize it is play.*

Alan W. Watts

## Not a Box by Antoinette Portis

*Not a Box* offers bold, unornamented line drawings of a rabbit and a box. It explores the time honored, imaginative play of young children who are able to turn a cardboard box into whatever their creativity can conjure.

**Ages: 3 to 6 years**

### Explore the Book Ideas:

- Provide boxes for children to sit in while listening to you read this story. It'll spur their imagination for the play activities, and it's fun!
- As you read, point to the outline of the box in each picture showing the children how the shape has become part of something else.
- On each page with the rabbit and the box, ask the children to guess what the box is going to become. It's fun to guess, there are no wrong answers, and it may be inspiring to the children to see how creative their ideas can be.

### Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Ask the kids to turn the boxes they've been sitting in into something else that's "Not a Box".  
**Kit Supplies:** Masking Tape, markers
- 2) Once the boxes have been transformed, ask the children to tell you about what their box has become.

