



Cardboard Cubbies

When children are young, they love to mimic the lives of adults. Imaginative play and pretend play are powerful sources of meaning.

Creating their own worlds allows children to become deeply immersed in their play and as such, their learning. They do it because they enjoy it- it's fun! Along the way they develop language skills, social skills and problem solving skills.



What to do:

Let the cardboard box inspire your creation!

A tall skinny fridge box could become a castle:

+ Cut square edging around the top of your box to form a castle roof (see below)

+ Decorate your castle with paint and fabric

What you need:

Cardboard Boxes (local shops often have leftover boxes. For bigger boxes, try places that sell fridges or washing machines or post up a note on a local community board asking people if they have any spare)

Gaffa tape

Scissors and a Stanley Knife (for parental use only)

Paint and craft items to decorate



What about a little house, that packs down flat?

See next page for step by step



You will need TWO boxes to make a collapsible cubby house:

- + Place one box upright on the floor and pull the top flaps up to sit vertically
- + Turn the box on its longest side - This is how the cubby will sit when it is finished. The big opening will be the entry to the cubby
- + Tape the corners of the flaps that form the floor
- + Cut off the entire top portion of the box - Set this cardboard aside as it will become the roof
- + Tape up all the corners of the box with gaffa tape
- + To make your pitched roof - Using the cardboard you have cut from the top of your box - cut a matching piece from another box
- + Lay the pieces together end to end and tape down the centre, to form the point of the roof - Tape the roof onto the cubby house

To make it collapsible:

- + Cut a line down the centre of the back wall - Tape it up so that it can fold and unfold
- + Cut a line down the centre of the floor - Tape it up so that it can fold and unfold too
- + To fold the cubby flat, pull the floor upwards, and push the back wall out
- + Time to decorate your house!
- + Paint the outside your favourite colour
- + Use cushions and fairy lights inside to make it cosy

Tip: Cover all exposed edges with tape to prevent paper cuts while playing



**Check out
this video
for a step by
step guide** ⁷