

Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building

A CLEL Silver Bell Award Book for PLAY

by Christy Hale
ISBN-13: 978-1600606519
Lee & Low Books, 2012



Photographs of famous buildings from around the world are cleverly paired with mixed media illustrations of children building similar structures out of boxes, toothpicks, sand, and other common household materials. The comparisons between children's play and real-life buildings helps children understand that there are genuine, relevant relationships between the activities they do, the world around them, and the ideas they read about in books.

Activity Ideas for *Dreaming Up*:

- Take photos of the children playing and the projects they create, print them, and collect them with samples of their own writing and drawing to create a personalized book for the group or for each child. Include a front cover with the title of their book, a title page with their names on it as authors, and a back cover. Children need to be familiar with the parts of a book and how books work before they can concentrate on learning to read the words inside.
- Invite the children to pretend to be different types of buildings and structures with their bodies. If they bend over and put their hands and feet on the ground, do they look like an arch? Can they balance on their tiptoes and reach above their heads to be a skyscraper? Gross-motor skills contribute to reading and writing readiness because children with muscle strength and control can sit up independently, leaving their hands and arms free to hold books, turn pages, keep paper steady, and use crayons or pencils.
- The illustrations in *Dreaming Up* offer many opportunities to talk with the children about concepts such as size, color, shape, materials, and even numbers. Talk about these ideas on the playground, on neighborhood walks, at mealtime, or while reading books. Include children in as many conversations as possible! The more words children hear, the more words they will learn, and the more ideas they will be able to understand when they read.

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit <http://www.clel.org> and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/deed.en_US.