

PAINTED CASTLE



INSTRUCTIONS:

Number of Participants:
Unlimited!

Materials:
Cardboard boxes, scissors,
paint, paint brushes

Steps:

This activity works best with different sizes and shapes of cardboard boxes. To start, have a few adults help by cutting openings in a variety of spots on the boxes. Let the children pick what type of structure they would like to make. If the kids decide they would like to create a castle, assist by making a door, windows and a drawbridge!

Gather all of the boxes and designate an area where the children can paint. Spend the first half of the Play Day painting and decorating the boxes. After the boxes are dry, setup the giant castle and let the imaginative, free play begin!

To add extra fun to this game, add loose parts and found objects (empty cereal boxes, bed sheets, a paper towel roll, etc.). What castle would be complete without a crown and some fancy clothes?

In 2009, the most popular activity at the La Madera Park Play Day in Tucson, Ariz. was building, painting and playing with the castle. The 15' x 15' structure featured a courtyard, mini-doorways, a moat and towers!



Play matters

Pretend play is related to the development of abstract thought, problem-solving, and even early literacy and math skills.

Take action

Let kids direct their own play and allow them to explore and interact with their environment.