

Cereal Box & Straw Play

INSTRUCTIONS

Materials: Empty Cereal Box, Pen or Sharp Object, Straws, Packing Tape (optional)

Steps:

1. Gather materials in a child-safe area for assembly.
2. (Optional) Consider wrapping packing tape or duct tape around the edges of the box to make your final product more secure.
3. Use a pen, sharpened pencil, or other sharp object to poke holes into the front or back of the box. Optionally, make a letter or shape with the holes you create.
4. Test one of the straws that you are going to give your child. Do they fit easily? Is it too snug of a fit?
5. If needed, reinsert your pen or pencil to make each hole a little wider to better accommodate your straws.
6. Give completed box and straws to child.



Watch a how-to video at [youtube.com/westervillelibrary](https://www.youtube.com/westervillelibrary).

Cereal Box & Straw Play

Cereal box and straw play builds fine motor skills since little ones have to grasp straws and place them exactly. For older children, consider making straw holes smaller, so they need to use more force to get straws to stand up. Fine motor skills build the muscles needed for writing.

ASK QUESTIONS

Start a **conversation** as your baby plays by asking your little one questions like:

- How many straws fit in the box?
- Can you take a straw out of the box?
- Can you make a straw fit in the box?
- What color is the straw?
- How does the straw feel?
- What happens if you hit the box with the straw?

STRETCH VOCABULARY

When talking with your little ones, use **big words and small words**. The more new words your child hears, the larger their vocabulary will be when they start to learn to read.

Fit

Into

Lift

Nudge

Pluck

Press

Pull

Push

Stand

Tight

PRO TIP

When talking with your little one, wait **7-10 seconds** for them to think of a response to your question, even if they are not talking yet.