

Engineering Activity - Build a Cave!

An engineering activity does not need expensive materials or take a lot of time. This engineering activity for children is a great way to engage your little ones with hands-on learning and grow their creative thinking skills.

What you need:

- Couch cushions or large/oversized pillows
- Blankets or flat sheets
- Optional – books about hibernation, animals that hibernate or sleep in caves, like bears.



What to do:

1. Talk with your little ones about animals that hibernate or “torpor” (animals that sleep for weeks at a time during the winter but do wake up like bears) through winter and where those animals spend the winters, like in caves for example. Questions to ask:
 - Why do you think bears like being in a cave?
 - How do bears stay warm in the cave?
 - What other types of animals live in a cave?
 - What other types of animals hibernate?
2. Build a “cave” that will stand on its own without falling for 10 seconds and you must be able to fit inside of the cave.
3. To build engagement and critical thinking, follow these steps:
 - Ask questions to identify the problem: “how do we build a cave?”
 - Brainstorm different ways to solve the problem/imagine how to build your cave.
 - Build it. If the cave isn’t standing, what can you change to help solve the problem?
 - Test it! Can everyone fit inside? Can you stand in your cave?

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