This week’s Play Material: Cardboard boxes

WEEK OF MARCH 16TH

Not a Box

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Main Activity

1. Head outside with your boxes and kiddos.
2. Stop and behold a box. Ask kids, “What is this?” Take answers.
3. Then, share, “The funny thing is, this is NOT a box.” Pause. “That’s right, this is definitely NOT a box.”
4. Wonder, “What could our ‘not-a-box’ be?”
5. Demonstrate a few ideas. Put the box on your head and, you've got a hat. Hop in and start to row row row your boat. Tap with sticks, and you've got a drum.
6. Have fun using your bodies, imaginations and the objects around you to turn your not-a-box into endless new things.
7. No need to rush. Stay silly. Enjoy each new idea for as long as it wants to hang out, and keep rolling, letting new ideas find you.
8. Optional: Listen to or watch a reading of Not A Box

Independent Extensions

Set these up to inspire independent play or play together.

Preschoolers and up

• Got glue stick? Help kids rub (glue stick), pour it on, or paint glue/water mixture on the side of your box, then stick on bits of paper, leaves, petals and other nature treasures. (Remember, kids are washable).

Babies/Toddlers

• Got tape? Leave one side of your box open, so babies can crawl in and out.

Parent Prep

• Got a knife? Cut a few larger holes or windows/doors in your box to open up new possibilities.
• Got a screwdriver? Pre-poke holes in your box. These holes can be perfect ways to stuff or pass light, twigs, grasses, yarn/string, etc. through the box.

Big Orange Splot — Listen to the book online. Get out the paint and other materials and turn a box into the home of your dreams. Share your experiences!