

Build a Simple Machine: Wheel and Axle

Support children's knowledge of simple machines by inviting them to build their own wheel and axle! This activity offers children a way to experience the hands-on application of their knowledge, thus strengthening their understanding. Check out our blog about simple machines an in-depth introduction to various types of simple machines.

Setting Up the Space

Offer materials for children to construct their own simple machines. Consider how the items will be displayed and accessed. Placing empty baskets or trays near the materials invites children to gather what they need and take it to their desired construction space.



Invite children to choose materials to construct their wheel and axles. Provide photos or drawings of wheel and axles for reference as they build.

Materials:

- cardboard
- tape
- dowels
- straws
- round lids
- recycled containers
- scissors

Vocabulary:

test, prototype, machine, system, problem, solution

Open-Ended Questions

- What is your plan?
- What materials do you need?
- How will your simple machine work?
- What is the problem or challenge?
- What surprised you?