

FEELINGS INSPECTORS RESOURCE Trust

Trust Sculptures

About this activity

In this activity, the children will work together to create a sculpture, trusting in their creative instincts and each other and allowing themselves to be led by the materials.

What do we need?

Lengths of craft square section wood

Modroc, water, tray/takeaway box

sharp scissors

bench hooks

saws (coping saws or hacksaws)

hot glue gun (with compatible glue sticks)

Check-in

At Children's Parliament, we start every session with a check-in. Children love these short activities, and they are a vital piece of our rights-based practice. Choose a check-in using our [Feelings Inspectors Check-in Kit](#).



Important note

This activity involves the use of tools which pose a risk of injury. Some guidance is included in the following instructions, but this does not replace the need for proper risk assessments and does not supersede your setting's Health & Safety policy or procedures. This activity may not be suitable for all settings as a result, though a simplified version using different materials is suggested at the bottom.

Trust Sculptures

Instructions

Explain that today the children will be working together to make a 'tower of trust' – a wooden abstract sculpture. The idea is that they will create this sculpture without planning and without deciding beforehand what they want it to look like. The approach is to see how it evolves and trust in their own ideas and what they feel as they build.

Process

The process follows these steps:

- 1 Cutting wood to size –**
under close supervision, the children choose the length and angle they want to cut a piece of square section wood at. Make sure safe sawing technique has been modelled to children before you start and that bench hooks are used. You may wish to consider the use of safety goggles and/or gloves.
- 2 Placement –**
the child decides where on the existing structure to attach their piece of wood and an adult uses the hot glue gun to glue it in place (older children may be able to do this themselves, depending on your own risk assessments).
- 3 Strengthening –**
the children cut strips of Modroc, dip in water, and wrap around the join so that when it hardens the join is strong.
- 4 Repeat!**
For as long as you can allow time for. Working together, the children should be able to build a large structure.



Trust Sculptures

Reflection

These questions can be used to guide a discussion on Trust once the group has finished. You may find it easier to schedule a separate follow-up session – this activity can take a couple of hours and the children may need a break afterwards.

How did you feel working with new materials?

How does it feel trusting your instincts and each other without planning first?

Were there any issues you had to solve to make sure you worked well as a group?

Did anyone notice anyone really demonstrating trust? If so, how?



'Cheat' version

If resourcing or health and safety concerns make the activity as described above unsuitable for your setting, the wood, Modroc, saws and glue gun can be substituted. Paper craft straws, lollypop sticks, drinks straws or rolled up paper can be joined using tape, bluetack or PVA glue to achieve similar (though less sturdy) results.

Trust Sculptures

While delivering this session, we discussed Trust during the making process and found ourselves talking about risks as well – that whenever you are putting your trust in someone or something there is an implicit risk. The children agreed that taking risks was important for learning new things and for gaining confidence in yourself. Lots of people are hesitant when trying new things and the children might be unsure of themselves when they begin working on this activity. It should be emphasised that there really is no right or wrong way of doing this and that it's all about trusting in the process and allowing it to be built without over-thinking the design.

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You have to trust people with your feelings.

“

[Risks] can sometimes be scary but sometimes be exciting.

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It is likely to be easier and safer to use the 'cheat' version above if using this activity with a whole class.



Useful tip

A mindful moment

At Children's Parliament, we end every session with a mindful moment to reflect on the session and wind-down. Choose a mindful moment using our [Feelings Inspectors Mindful Moment Kit](#).