

Homes of the World

- Written by Nancy Loewen and Paula Skelley
- Photographs from various sources
- Capstone Press, 2016

This photographic tour of homes introduces children to the materials, sizes, and shapes people use to build homes around the world. During read alouds, children point out structures that they recognize from their own community, as well as designs that are unfamiliar. As they build these connections, children learn what elements homes everywhere have in common.

Vocabulary

- shelter: to cover and protect
- material: what something is made out of

Building a House

- Written and illustrated by Byron Barton
- Greenwillow Books, 1990

After exploring how we imagine, plan, and design buildings, this book introduces children to the building process. Carpenters, electricians, and plumbers all do their part, encouraging children to think about different jobs and elements needed to construct a building. Readers can focus on the step-by-step process of building, as the structure turns into a house.

Vocabulary

- cement: a special material that gets very hard when it dries

The Little Red Fort

- Written by Brenda Maier
- Illustrated by Sonia Sánchez
- Scholastic Press, 2018

Ruby wants to build her own fort, but will anyone help? This updated version of *The Little Red Hen* illustrates how working together helps us achieve our goals, while the design process Ruby follows invites children to make predictions about what she will do next. Children join in on repeated phrases and review identifying and inferring emotions.

Vocabulary

- aroma: a good smell
- fort: a special place where you can go inside to feel safe and have fun
- delighted: very happy or excited

Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building

- Written and illustrated by Christy Hale
- Lee & Low Books, 2012

This book connects children's imaginative play with the fundamentals of architecture, building, and design. Illustrations of children making forts, playing with blocks, and building sand castles are shown next to pictures of famous structures that use similar shapes or concepts. The text, written as concrete poetry, reflects the elements of design shown in the pictures.

Vocabulary

- connect: to link or be held together

Construction

- Written by Sally Sutton
- Illustrated by Brian Lovelock
- Candlewick, 2016

Filled with vivid action and sound words, this fun, rhyming book invites children to participate in the construction of a new library. The book shows the massive machines and hand held tools used to dig, pour concrete, saw, hammer, and lift. Children continue to learn about the jobs involved in construction, and consider what gear workers must wear and why. Read alouds allow children to practice making predictions as the mysterious building is slowly revealed.

Vocabulary

- hoist: to lift up something heavy

The Three Little Pigs

- Written by Mara Alperin
- Illustrated by Ag Jatkowska
- Tiger Tales, 2014

This version of the well-known book provides an introduction to the genre of folktales. Children join in on repeated phrases of the book, promoting fluency. Children learn about the effectiveness of different building materials, as well as the importance of working with others and persevering. Emphasizing the importance of sturdiness in building, this tale provides a springboard to children's first design challenge.

Vocabulary

- trembled: shook when afraid

What To Do With a Box

- Written by Jane Yolen
- Illustrated by Chris Sheban
- Creative Editions, 2016

This book shows how you can use your imagination to design and create. The list of possibilities for what a cardboard box can become is endless. Children are encouraged to think about designing something all their own.

Vocabulary

- nook: a small, cozy corner to sit in

My Friend Robot!

- Written by Sunny Scribens
- Illustrated by Hui Skipp
- Barefoot Books, 2017

A young girl builds a robot, who then helps a group of friends build a treehouse. This singalong book showcases important construction tools, encouraging children to think about what tools are used in building and how they make each job easier. Children are introduced to simple machines like wedges and pulleys, while the group effort to build the treehouse emphasizes the importance of working together.

Vocabulary

- base: the bottom
- haul: to pull or drag something heavy

A House in the Woods

- Written and illustrated by Inga Moore
- Candlewick, 2011

The story begins in a familiar way: two Little Pigs have built themselves a pair of humble homes in the woods. But when they discover that their small abodes cannot accommodate their dear larger friends, Bear and Moose, the entire group decides to construct a house that they all can live in together. They even recruit a team of knowledgeable and ever-handy Beaver Builders to lead the project! Children make predictions about how the builders solve their problem, and discuss how this diverse bunch of friends takes care of each other from beginning to end.

Vocabulary

- brilliant: very bright; smart