

# Toys from Trash!

**Called to Care for Kids  
Conference**

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The purpose of this workshop is to demonstrate ways that the recycling bin can be a source of materials for several investigations.

Supplies used for this session:

Ramps and Rollers:

- Pieces of cardboard cut into various sizes (width and length)
- Collection of items to roll (ping pong balls, tennis balls, milk jug lids, aluminum foil balls)
- Various types of boxes to use for elevating ramps (cereal, cracker, pasta etc.)

Catch it:

- Plastic milk or juice jugs, bottom section cut off, hold by handle.



- Variety of items to catch—Nerf ball, Beanie Baby etc.
- Other types of containers that could be used for catching (coffee canister, large yogurt container etc.)

Tubes and Towers:

- Large collection of cardboard tubes (toilet paper, paper towel, wrapping paper etc.)
- Collection of small boxes/containers (Kleenex, frozen food, yogurt/pudding cups, egg, cereal etc.)
- Stuffed animals/various toys for weight test, “hide it” challenge etc.

This used to be a box, but now it's a .....

- Variety of sizes of boxes, large and small (appliance, equipment, shoe etc.)
- Drawing paper and coloring materials

# **Activity Station Prompts**

# **Ramps and Rollers**

## **Challenges:**

- **Make a ramp that you can roll one of the “rolling things” down.**
- **Can you make it roll faster?**
- **Can you make it roll slower?**
- **Can you race 2 items down at the same time?**
- **Can you roll an item to hit a target?**

# **Catch It**

## **Challenges:**

- **How many times can you and a partner catch an item between 2 catchers?**
- **How could you play a catch game with more than 2 players?**
- **How far can you and your partner stand apart and still catch an item?**
- **Can you make a new catch game?**

# **Tubes and Towers**

## **Challenges:**

- **How high can you build?**
- **How wide can you build?**
- **Can you build a tower that will hold a stuffed animal?**
- **Can you build a tower that will hide a stuffed animal?**
- **Can you build a tower with a bridge?**

**This used to be a box,  
but now it's a.....**

**Challenge:**

- **Choose a box—use your imagination to decide what it could become! Draw a picture to show your ideas!**

## **Make it Mine!**

As you visit each station, brainstorm with others in your group some possible adaptations to the activity. How might you adjust to fit the needs of your individual program?

**Ramps and Rollers:**

**Catch It:**

**Tubes and Towers:**

**This used to be a box, but now it's a .....**

# Children's Literature Resources

## Recycling:

- *The Adventures of a Plastic Bottle: A Story About Recycling* by Alison Inches
- *Why Should I Recycle* by Jen Green
- *Don't Throw That Away! A Lift-the-Flap Book about Recycling and Reusing* by Laura Bergen
- *The Adventures of an Aluminum Can: A Story About Recycling* by Alison Inches
- *Michael Recycle* by Ellie Bethel
- *Recycling Day* by Edward Miller
- *Hey, That's Not Trash! But Which Bin Does It Go In?* by Renee Jablow
- *George Saves the World by Lunchtime* by Jo Readman

## Imagination-Boxes:

- *What to Do With a Box* by Jane Yolen and Chris Sheban
- *A Box Story* by Kenneth Kit Lamug
- *Not A Box* by Antoinette Portis