



Builder Toy Straws & Connectors

DESCRIPTION:

Flexible plastic straws with connectors

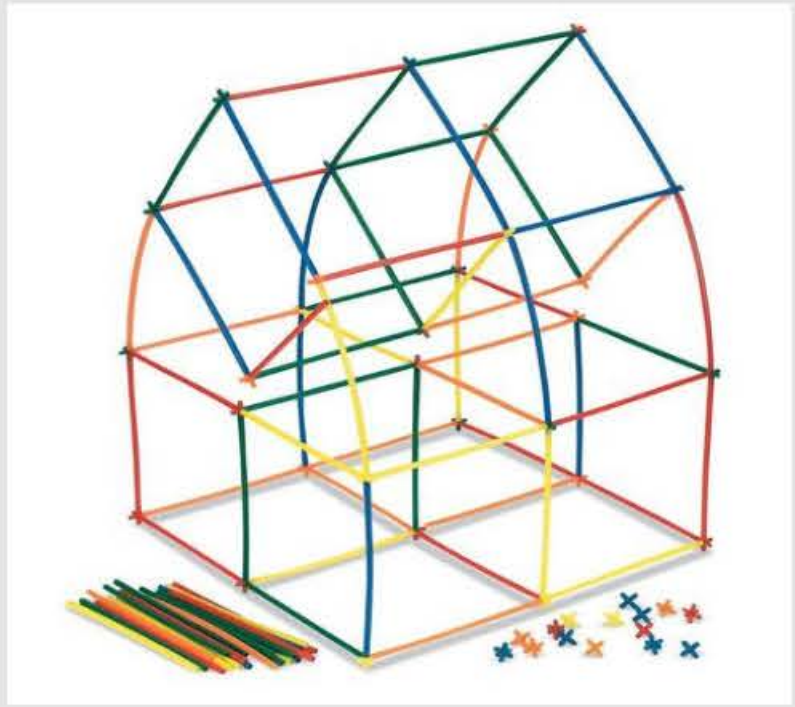
Best for ages 4 +

MIX & MATCH:

Add animals or figures for dramatic play

Skills:

- Spatial thinking
- Building
- Fine motor
- Language development
- Cooperative Play



Vocabulary

Design

Frame

Structure

Construction

Connectors

Join

Snap

Flexible

Expanding

What are ways to introduce toy?

Tip #1

Prepare a few examples:

Create a few models/examples to show children how to build different structures.

Tip #2

Plan building with child:

Ask children what they want to build. If they need help thinking of something, ask them about their favorite toy, book, activities, TV shows and think about objects that could be created.

Tip #3

Invite child to explore straws & connectors

Demonstrate how to connect straws using connectors, invite child to join you and explore different ways of building with straws, such as curves, building a standing structure, connecting several straws together.

What are some questions and ways to support children's language during play?

Tip #1

Ask questions

"What would you like to build? Do you need help planning how to build (child's idea)? What do we need to make structure stable? How can we use connectors to build something?"

Tip #2

Build on what they are saying

"I see you are building a (child's idea), can we expand it and make it bigger/stronger?"

Tip #3

Play and model language

Model how to 'think aloud' while playing... "I want to build a tall building, how can I do this?" How can I make my building stand on its own?"