



Activity Guide: June

Items in green are included in your PBL kit from CMNH

Ages 0-24 months:

● Stacking towers

- Explore cause and effect with young babies by doing some stacking with **blocks** or items from the recycling bin

- Use the **nesting blocks** provided in your PBL kit to make some towers. Show babies how to use two hands to put the big blocks on top of each other. Then show them how to knock them down!
- Try stacking the blocks on their sides so that there are openings to place the **bath buddies** or other toys. Cute little houses!
- Have a bunch of babies that want to play? Use other blocks in the classroom or even gather some baby safe items from the recycling to use.

- We recently made a PBL video about using items you already have for play with young babies.

- [Watch and see how we created recycling bin towers for little ones & other fun activities!](#)

● Sensory exploration: underwater **scarves!**

- Carefully supervise a shallow bin with a few inches of water in it. Invite babies to put **scarves** into the bin of water.

- They will love watching the scarves sink, the feeling of them in the water, picking them up and feeling the change of weight. Lots of fun to be had here!

Ages 2-3 years:

- **Make nature soup!**

- Bring the **set of metal bowls** outside and invite children to create nature concoctions!
- First, put some water in the **bowls** then invite them to get their ingredients, this can be done a number of ways:
 - You could give them a visual shopping list (photos of leaves, pine cones, sticks, dirt, etc) and have them work together to find the items
 - Give them free range to collect items!
 - Give them a challenge "Find three leaves! GO!" and watch them scatter!
 - If you do not have a large outdoor space, bring in some natural materials and hide them around the classroom!
- Give children some spoons, scoops, and other tools to play with their soup.
- Older children could practice cutting up leaves before putting them in their soup. Little ones could tear the leaves to strengthen their hands and fine motor skills!

Looking for a great book about nature soup? Try [Compost Stew](#) by Mary McKenna Siddals and illustrated by Ashley Wolff. This fun A-Z book teaches little ones a bit about compost in fun pictures showing kids having a blast outside!

Ages 4-5 years:

- **Guided play: DIY catapults & scales**

- Set up an invitation to play! Place **counting critters**, strips of cardboard, and plastic cups on a surface for children to investigate
- See how they play! A couple fun ideas:
 - Place a strip of cardboard over a cup and catapult some **counting critters**!
 - Place a strip of cardboard over a cup, then two cups on either side to make a scale.
 - Make a slide with a cup and piece of cardboard

- **Extension activities:**

- Use the **play silks** to make large targets for the catapulted **counting critters**
- Invite children to color on the pieces of cardboard and then match **counting critters** to the different colors they've selected
- Have children guess which critter they think will fly the farthest with the catapults. Record their guesses on a chart! Then, make marks on the floor with tape of how far the different **critters** fly through the air. Who is the winner?!

A fun story about engineering (many of these projects use simple machines!) and not giving up even when projects don't exactly go the way you think they will, is [Rosie Revere, Engineer](#) by Andrea Beaty and illustrated by David Roberts. Children will learn a lot from Rosie, a talented young tinkerer who doesn't give up even when things get tough!