



Kids' Activity Guide

Let's build... a fort! Grab a pencil, draw the plans. We'll construct it with our hands. Dad and son hit the hardware store. And then they start to build! Raise the walls up, hoist that beam. Real construction takes a team. When they're all done, they'll have the coolest fort ever!

Being a father is all about teaching your children about life and helping them grow. *Let's Build* is a rhyming story about a father and a son who build a clubhouse fort together. They make a plan, visit the hardware store, and start building. *Let's Build* is a great story to introduce your child to a variety of tools and building vocabulary. The following activities will allow you to jump into the story and build some memories together.

Pre-reading Questions

1. Have you ever built anything? What did you build?
2. What have you learned from your dad?
3. Have you ever made a shopping list?
4. What are tools? Name some tools.
5. Where does your family keep its tools?
6. Who might live in a fort? Why are forts built?
7. Explain what a raft is. What could you make a raft out of?
8. What is a catapult?
9. What is a rhyme?

The questions above will set the stage for reading *Let's Build* and introduce your child to some of the concepts in the book.

Craft Stick Raft Activity:

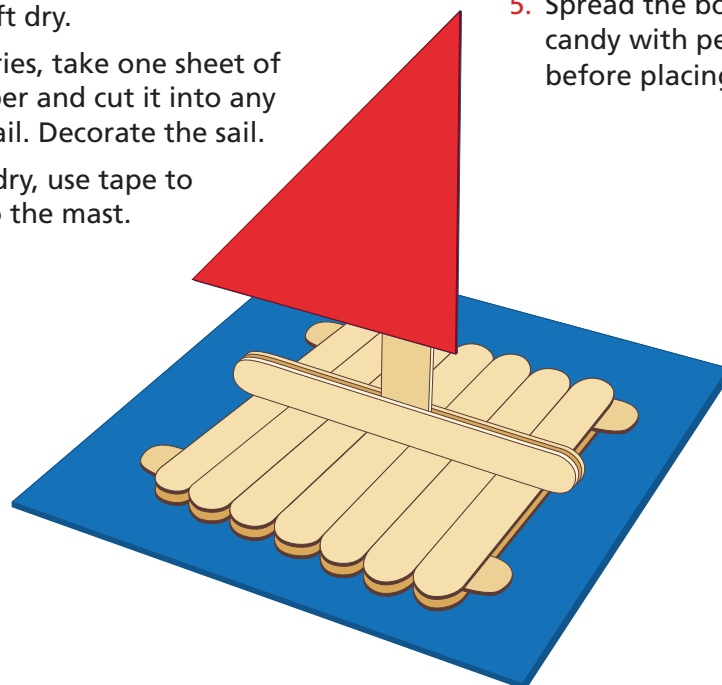
In *Let's Build* the boy and his father build a fort. There are many different things you can build with your child. Assist your child in following these directions to build a raft out of craft sticks.

Materials:

- Package of jumbo craft sticks
- Tape
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Optional: assorted craft foams for decoration

Directions:

1. Make two vertical stacks of five sticks each.
2. Secure all of the sticks in each stack together by placing a line of glue down the center of each of the sticks and pressing them together. These will be the pontoons of your raft.
3. Add a line of glue down the top stick of each stack, and glue several craft sticks horizontally across the pontoons to make the floor of your raft.
4. To build the mast, glue the end of one stick to the middle of another stick.
5. Flip the mast over and repeat the process on the other side.
6. Apply glue to the bottom of the two sticks and attach it to the center of the raft.
7. Let the entire raft dry.
8. While the raft dries, take one sheet of construction paper and cut it into any shape for your sail. Decorate the sail.
9. Once the raft is dry, use tape to attach the sail to the mast.



Pretzel Fort Snack:

Snacking with Dad after a hard day of work is a great reward. Follow the directions below to keep the building going as you prepare a tasty snack.

Ingredients:

- Clean 8-oz. milk carton (or larger, for 2-story structures)
- Peanut butter or hazelnut spread
- Thin pretzel sticks
- Pretzel rods
- 4 tubular-shaped candies (rolos work best)
- Graham crackers
- Scissors
- Tape

Directions:

1. Cut off the top of the milk carton and tape it closed flat to form the roof.
2. Poke a small hole in each of the four corners on the top of the roof. Insert pretzel rods in each hole to form the towers of your castle. (Cut the rods to adjust height.)
3. Spread peanut butter or hazelnut spread on one side of milk carton, and then cover with pretzels. Repeat until all four sides are complete.
4. Cut the graham crackers to form doors and windows. Back them with peanut butter or hazelnut spread and stick them on the fort.
5. Spread the bottom of the tubular-shaped candy with peanut butter or hazelnut spread before placing on top of the tower's roof.

Cardboard Fort Craft:

Use a large cardboard box or multiple boxes to help your child create a fort of his or her own.

Materials:

- Large cardboard boxes
- Medium cardboard boxes
- Cardboard tubes
- Box cutter or scissors
- Packing tape
- Markers, paint, pens, and crayons for decoration
- String

The first step is to find the boxes. Connect several large boxes together using the packing tape. To make the roof and additional walls, break down smaller boxes so they are flat and attach them with tape. The cardboard tubes can be taped to corners and joints to reinforce your fort. Use the directions below to create one or two drawbridge entries, and then help your child decorate the fort.

Making a drawbridge for your fort:

1. Cut a large rectangle on one side of your fort, leaving the bottom attached to the rest of the fort; this is your drawbridge.
2. Let the drawbridge fall open and poke two small holes into the top corners of it.
3. Push the drawbridge back into its original position and poke two holes on the fort, level with the corner holes in the drawbridge.
4. Let the drawbridge fall open and cut two pieces of string slightly longer than the distance between each drawbridge hole and the corresponding fort hole.
5. Push each string through the drawbridge hole and knot it on the outside, and then push the other end of the string through the fort hole and knot it on the inside.
6. Your child will now be able to pull up the drawbridge using the strings!

Marshmallow Catapult:

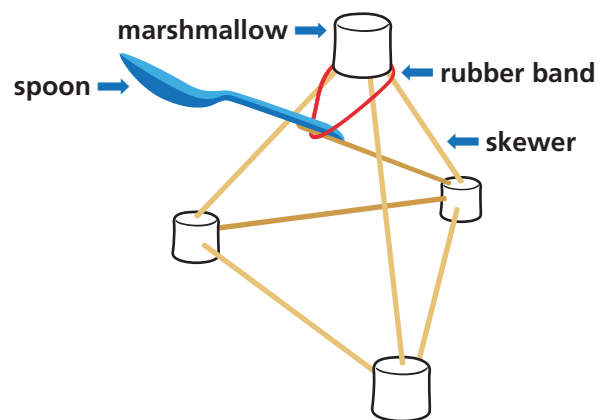
Every good fort needs to have a catapult. Follow the directions below to build a marshmallow catapult with your child. Stacking paper/plastic cups and knocking them down with your catapult is an activity that can keep you and your child occupied for hours.

Materials:

- Long wooden skewers (sharp ends cut off)
- Tape
- One rubber band
- One plastic spoon
- A bag of large marshmallows

Instructions:

1. Take three skewers and three marshmallows and make a triangle by sticking the skewers into the marshmallows.
2. Take three more skewers and one more marshmallow and turn your triangle into a pyramid.
3. Tape the plastic spoon to the end of another skewer with the head protruding.
4. Place your rubber band around the marshmallow at the top of the pyramid with one end hanging down.
5. Slide the skewer with the spoon through the hanging down section of the rubber band and stick it into the farthest base triangle it can reach.
6. The catapult is ready to gently fire!
7. Place a marshmallow into the spoon and gently pull the spoon down while holding the base marshmallow.
8. Once the band is stretched out, let it go and watch the marshmallow fly.



Rhyming Activity:

Let's Build is written using rhyme. This activity will allow your child to learn about and practice using rhyming words. Using the chart below, have your child name words that rhyme with words from *Let's Build*. Work with your child to fill in the chart with words that rhyme with the last word of each sentence. After filling out the chart, help him or her make sentences that rhyme.

Line from <i>Let's Build</i> :	Words that rhyme with...
It's the weekend! Time to play ?	play: Ex: pay, say, lay, day, hay, portray, clay, sleigh
Sentence that rhymes:	Ex: We can go to a park and have a great day.
Measure and mark, cut and sand .	sand:
Sentence that rhymes:	
Time to hammer. Swing it now ?	now:
Sentence that rhymes:	
Raise the walls up. Hoist the beam .	beam:
Sentence that rhymes:	
"Lunch break!" Dad shouts, "Race you there !"	there:
Sentence that rhymes:	
Back to business, tummies full .	full:
Sentence that rhymes:	
There's a hole. What's it for ?	for:
Sentence that rhymes:	
Paint the outside, blue and red .	red:
Sentence that rhymes:	
Secret password, handshake too —	too:
Sentence that rhymes:	

Big Red Toolbox Rhyming Activity:

Let's Build will engage your child with its use of rhyme. This toolbox craft will allow your child to create a craft and work on their rhyming skills. Follow the directions below and help your child build a big red construction paper toolbox.

Materials:

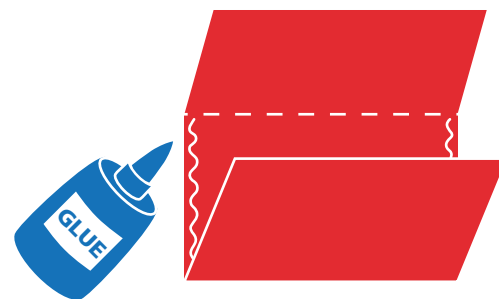
- Construction paper: red and black
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue
- Tool cutouts (provided on page 6)
- Additional craft supplies for decoration

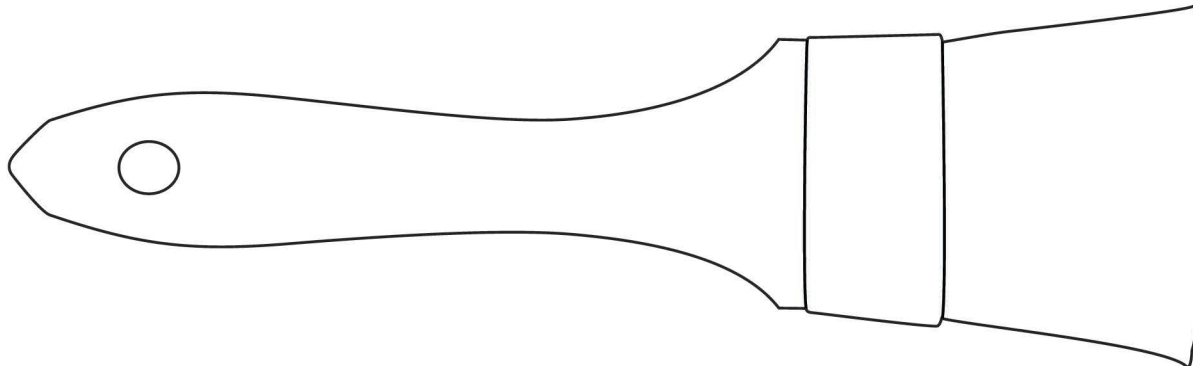
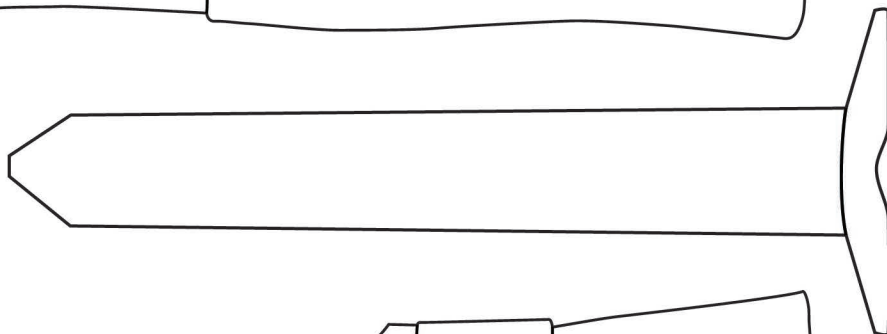
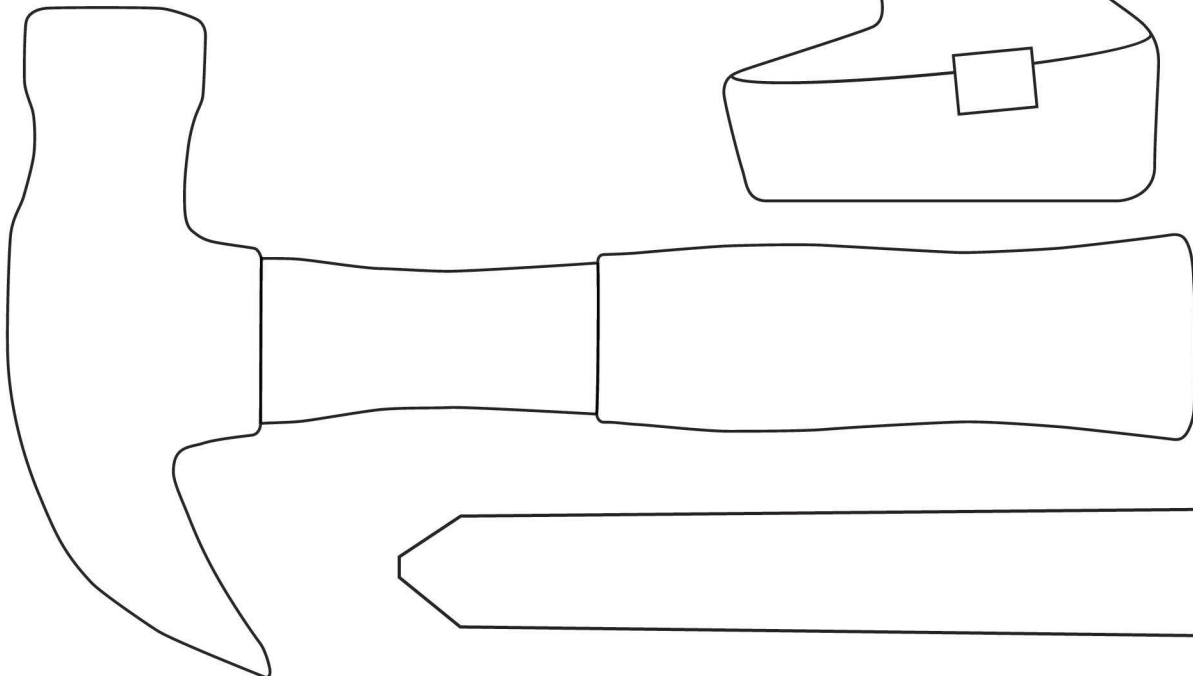
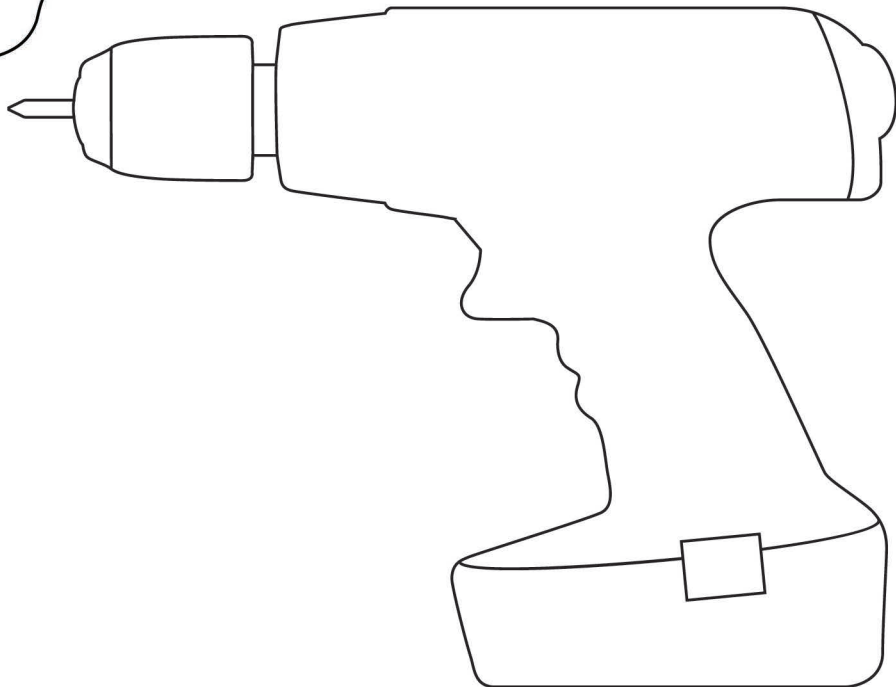
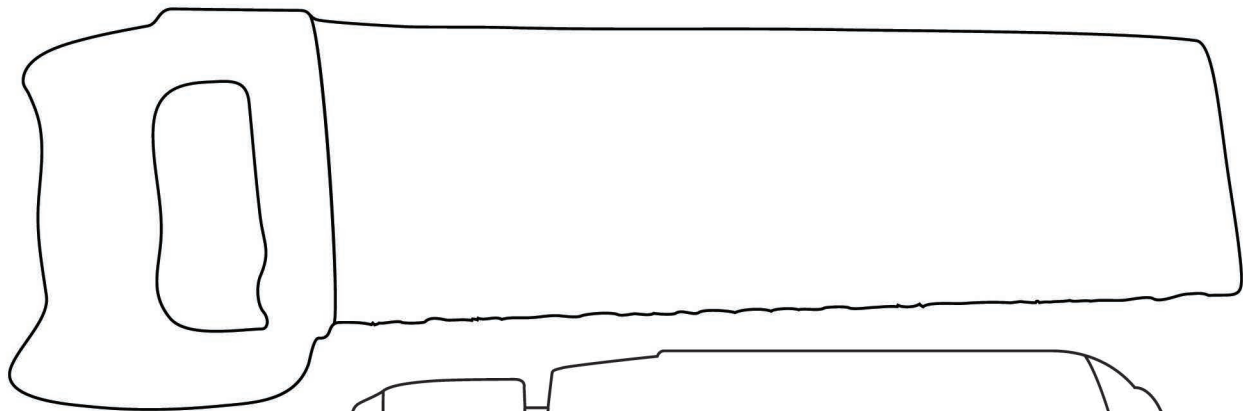
Instructions:

1. Hold a red piece of construction paper vertically. Fold the bottom upward about a third of the way up and crease it.
2. Fold the top of the paper down so that it covers about half of the bottom flap.
3. Open it back up and glue along the edges of only the bottom half of the paper, and then press the sides together.
4. Fold the black sheet of construction paper, and in the crease of the paper, cut a U-shaped handle for the tool box.
5. Glue the bottom edges of the handle to the front and back sides of the top of the toolbox. Then decorate only the front of the toolbox, leaving the back blank.
6. Once your toolbox is complete, cut out the tools on page 6.
7. Decorate only the front of the tools, leaving the backs blank.

Rhyming activity:

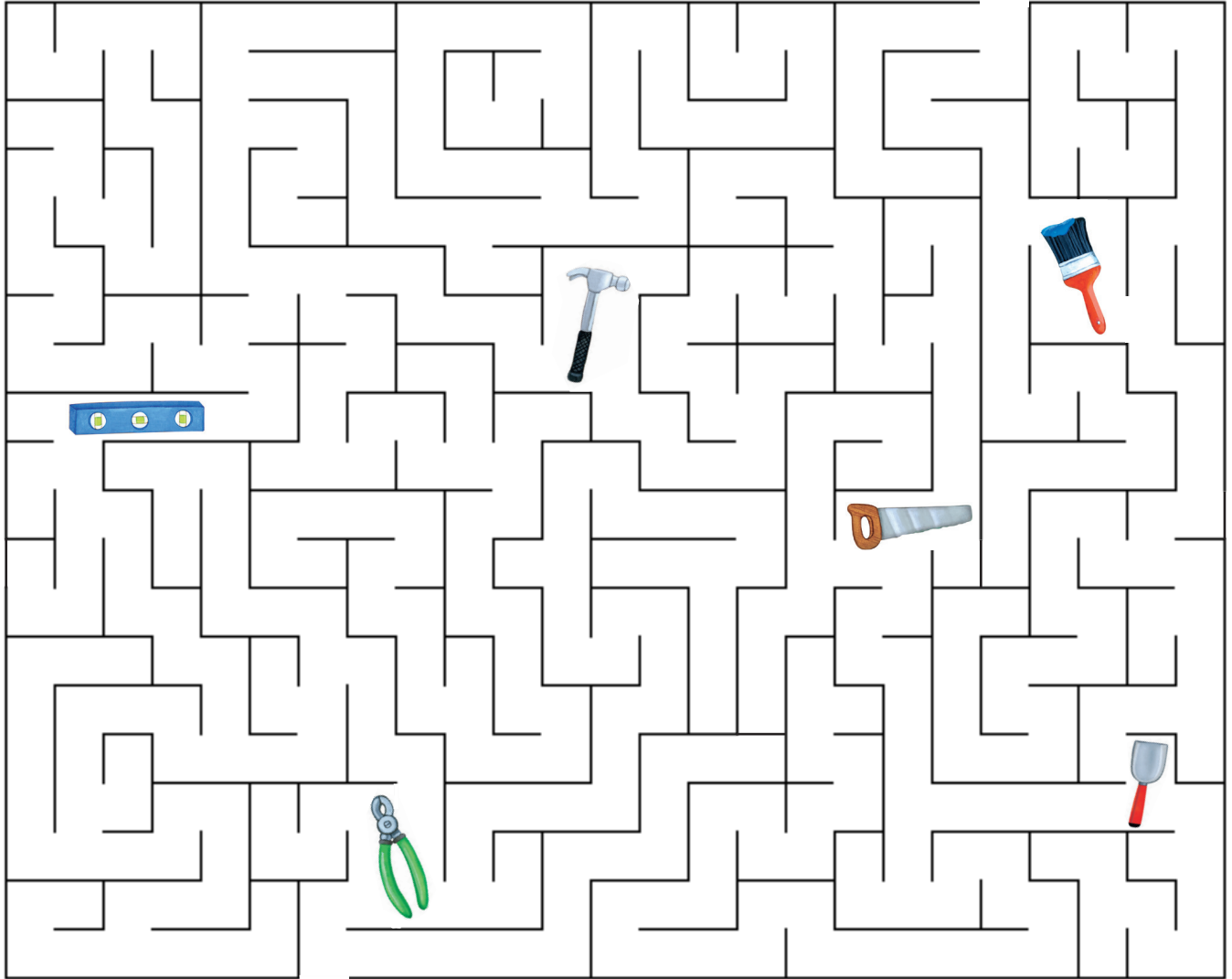
1. Help your child come up with words that rhyme with each of the tools: saw, drill, hammer, nail, and paintbrush.
2. Now write the rhyming words on the back of each tool.
3. Repeat with the words *tool* and *box*, and write those rhyming words on the back of the toolbox.
4. The tools can then be stored in the toolbox to be used over and over again.



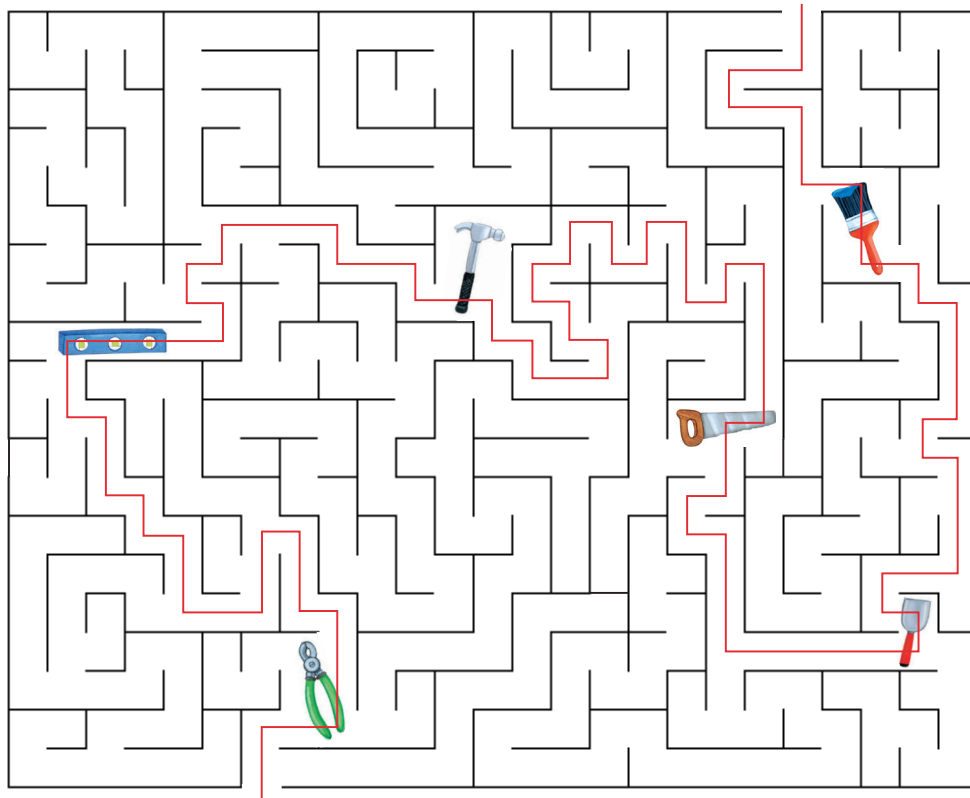


Let's Build Maze:

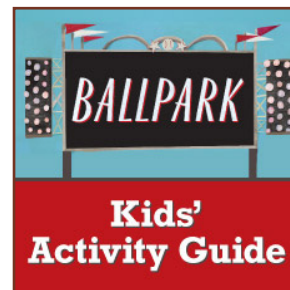
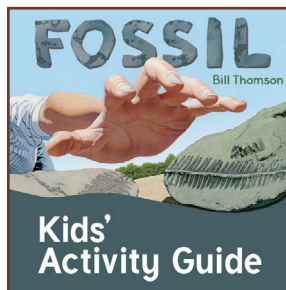
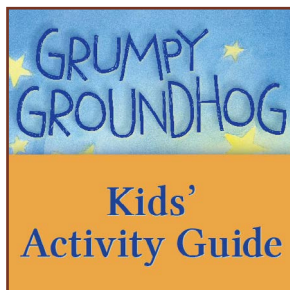
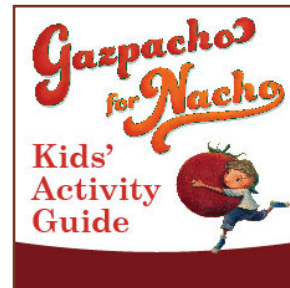
Help the dad and son build the clubhouse by picking up the tools through the maze.



Let's Build Maze Key:



Click on the Kids' Activity Guides Below for More Fun!



This guide was created by Chris Valcarcel, educational consultant, and Jennifer Messinger, graphic designer.

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