

# The Tallest Tower



## Materials

### Part 1:

- Three *different* types of materials that can be used to build towers
  - Plastic cups
  - Paper cups
  - Blocks
  - Mac & Cheese boxes
  - Yogurt cups
  - Pop cans
  - Water Bottles
  - Anything you have a 'lot' of that could be used to build a tower!

### Part 2:

- One of the building materials from Part 1
- Painter's tape or Masking tape

## Learning Objectives

I can build towers out of different materials and determine which is the *tallest*, *middle*, and *shortest*

I can predict *how many* items it will take to build a tower to a specific height with that item

I can build towers to specific heights and count *how many* items it took to get to those heights

## Skills



Fine Motor



Problem Solving



Math Skills

## Exploration

### Part 1

To begin this activity, learners will choose three items that are available to them to try to build a tower with. Once they have gathered their materials, you may ask:

- **Which material do you think will build the tallest/shortest tower? Why?**

After making predictions, allow learners time to experiment and play with their building materials and tower plans.

- **Which tower is the tallest/shortest? Is that what you predicted?**
- **Why was \_\_\_\_\_ a good material for a tall tower?**
- **Why do you think \_\_\_\_\_ made such a short tower?**

### Part 2

For the second part of this activity, learners will choose **one** of the building materials they used in Part 1. An adult helper will use painter's tape or masking tape to mark 2-3 different heights on a wall. The adult helper will show the learner the tape marks and ask:

- **How many \_\_\_\_\_ do you think you will need to build a tower to reach Tape #1?**
- **Do you think you will need more or less \_\_\_\_\_ to reach Tape #2/#3? Why do you think that?**

Learners will then complete the task of building towers that reach the tape using their chosen material. When they have reached the tape, they will count and see how many of each material they used. You may even wish to make a data table that can be used to keep track of predictions and data as your learner builds each tower. Make sure to re-visit their predictions and talk about if they actually used more or less, and you can even ask them to make another prediction based on a new piece of tape on the wall.

