

## Sample Curriculum Plan for Educators

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# Structures and Building Projects



**The Project Approach (Chard, 2014) supports a play-based approach to early education. This can be motivating to children as they are supported to explore, document and share their interests.**

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**Educators can highlight children's new learning and changes to thinking and provide tools for them to document their learning.**

**Incorporating digital technology such as open-ended tablet apps can motivate children and accommodate different learning styles and stages. Suggestions in blue type indicate where an open-ended iPad app could be used.**

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### **Sample Curriculum Plan**

1. **Educators observe children's interests and record questions**
  - **Children are observed creating structures in new or repetitive ways**
2. **Educators ask children about their work to find out what motivates them, their knowledge-base and theories**
  - A. **Traditional tools and methods:**
    - **Record children's ideas on chart paper**
    - **Children draw pictures on paper**
  - B. **Children's use of digital technology:**
    - **Short video clips of each child's answer**
    - **Photo of group and audio clips of ideas**
    - **Photo or short video of student-built structures to share with group**
  - C. **Combination:**
    - **Audio/video record and record ideas on chart paper**
3. **Educators facilitate discussion with student builders: what can we build; how can we plan; how can we find out more about structures and document what we learn?**
  - **Small groups taking pictures or drawing within the app (plans, required tools, resources)**
  - **Library books**
  - **Look to student experts for advice/information**
  - **Books from classroom**

**- What could educators do at this stage?**

- **Model an in-app search engine (e.g.- Pixabay) if available to locate images to support building ideas**
- **Research with children (computer, books)**
- **Suggest photographing structures they have built to use for future plans**
- **Suggest making 'how-to' videos or tip sheets for others to use**
- **Look for signs of construction on a neighbourhood walk and document**
- **Making chart of different construction materials they have used and ranking them based on various qualities**
- **Can suggest different ways to use familiar materials**
- **Survey children about what techniques/materials they have found to be most effective (digitally or on paper and audio record their responses)**
- **Provide tools: cardboard, tubes, milk crates, wooden planks, logs, log slices, PVC pipes and connectors, clipboards paper and pencil, to record findings/draw plans**
- **Support effective problem-solving (e.g. - ensuring there is space for structures to remain 'up' for a specified time period)**

**4. Share findings**

- **Present to another class, principal, families and so on, invite them for a tour of the build site**
- **Can use slideshow video to present**
- **Can use photos/digital drawings to create tip sheets to address common challenges or recommend building ideas**
- **Can use digital images to create photobook of student-built structures**
- **Can electronically share images (through HiMama or email) with families**

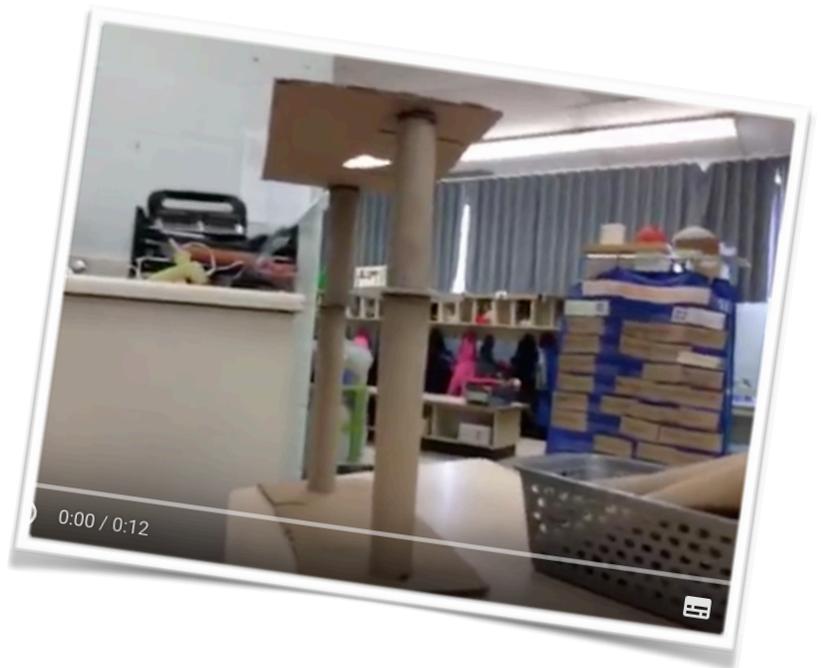
**Educators can document the progress of children's thinking and learning over time using the open-ended app**

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## Specific tips

-Some apps may have the ability for each child to maintain their own file. This can become a personal journal or portfolio, where they can record their questions, add daily/weekly drawings and photos to document what they are learning throughout the project.

-For the adventurous, children's photos, drawings and videos can be compiled using iMovie, or another movie making app, to create a continuous video.



Chard, S. (2014). The project approach : A study guide. Retrieved from The Project Approach Website: <http://www.theprojectapproach.org>

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