

What's the plan?



Making stories fun!

Tips for reading books with young children

Children aged 4–5 years will enjoy this story.

National Curriculum Framework Birth to 4 years (NCF) level:
Towards Grade R

★ **Children love stories! They build important language skills when we read with them, especially when it is fun.** Involve the children when you read, use languages that they know, and talk about the stories together. Here are ideas to make storytime fun for the children ... and for you!

📖 **Get ready:** Include time for a story every day. You can read the same book many times! Choose a story, or let the children choose a favourite. Sit together and hold the book so that everyone can see the pictures.

📖 **Before** you read, introduce the story with the title. Show the front cover and read the story description on the back. Show the first few pages. Ask: What are the children doing? What will the story be about?

📖 **During** the story, read with expression and use different voices to keep the children interested. Remember to show the pictures. Ask: What's their new plan? What do you think they could try?

📖 **After** the story, discuss the book. Ask: What did you like about the story? Extend the learning with play-based activities:

Motor skills and creativity: Find lots of different recycled materials. In small groups, children can build their own bridges: How many different bridges can they make? How many different building materials can they use?

Drawing and observation: All buildings have a plan! Can the children draw plans for their bridges?

✅ **Let the children use the books.** Children need time to discover the books for themselves. Keep the books in a reading corner. Make it comfortable with a carpet and cushions. Encourage children to look at the books during free-play time.

Sharing books supports the **three themes of the NCF**: (1) I am a competent person, (2) My learning and development is important, and (3) I need strong connections with adults.

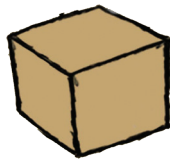
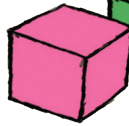
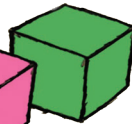
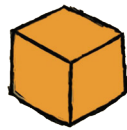
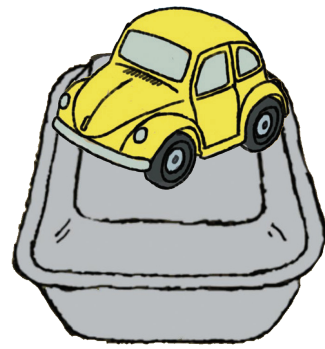
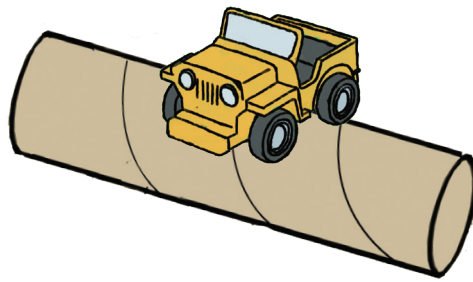
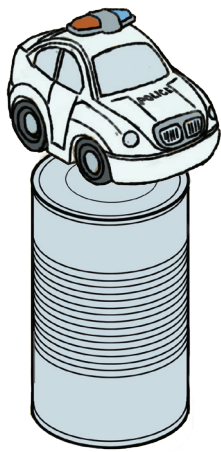
Books and reading build children's skills in **all six of the Early Learning and Development Areas (ELDAs)**: (1) Well-being, (2) Identity and belonging, (3) Communication, (4) Exploring mathematics, (5) Creativity, and (6) Knowledge and understanding of the world.

This story aligns with early learning themes:

STEAM

Clothing, colours and designs

My family and friends



What's the plan?

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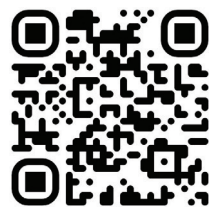
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You can find this book, as well as other books in the *Stories for Joy* series along with materials to support emergent literacy and the National Curriculum Framework for Children from Birth to Four, at www.ecdinfohub.org.



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What's the plan?





Bongi and his friends are building a bridge for their cars. They put strips of paper on top of some tin cans.

Bongi tries the bridge with his yellow car. “This bridge is not working at all,” he sighs.

“I think the problem is the paper. It’s too weak, so the bridge is bending,” explains Nolwazi. “That’s why your car is falling off.”

“Hang on! I’ve got a plan!” says Tshepo.

Tshepo's plan is to use cardboard strips on top of some cardboard tubes.

"Cardboard is stronger than paper," explains Tshepo. "It won't bend as easily."

The friends try Tshepo's plan ... but the bridge doesn't work!

"I think the problem is the cardboard tubes," explains Bongzi. "They are too long and thin, so they keep falling over."

"Hang on! I've got a plan!" says Nolwazi.





Nolwazi's plan is to use ice-lolly sticks on top of some block towers.

"Wood is strong, so the wooden blocks won't fall over like the cardboard tubes," explains Nolwazi.

The friends try Nolwazi's plan ... but again the bridge doesn't work!

"I think the problem is the ice-lolly sticks," explains Tshepo. "They are too thin. Our cars can't ride along them."

"Hang on! I've got a plan!" says Bongi.

Bongi's plan is to make two rows of wooden blocks next to each other.

"We know that the wooden blocks are strong. They are also wider than the ice-lolly sticks," explains Bongi.

The friends try Bongi's plan ... but still the bridge doesn't work! The cars go *bumpity-bump* along the blocks and their wheels keep getting stuck.





The friends are not sure what to try next. They think and think.

Then Nolwazi says, "Let's try cardboard on top again."

"Good idea! We could try using egg-boxes underneath," suggests Bongi.

The friends try out this idea, but the bridge doesn't work. The cardboard falls between the egg-boxes and the cars crash to the ground.

Everyone is almost ready to give up, but ...

... Nolwazi says they should try **one last plan** – putting planks of wood on top of large wooden blocks.

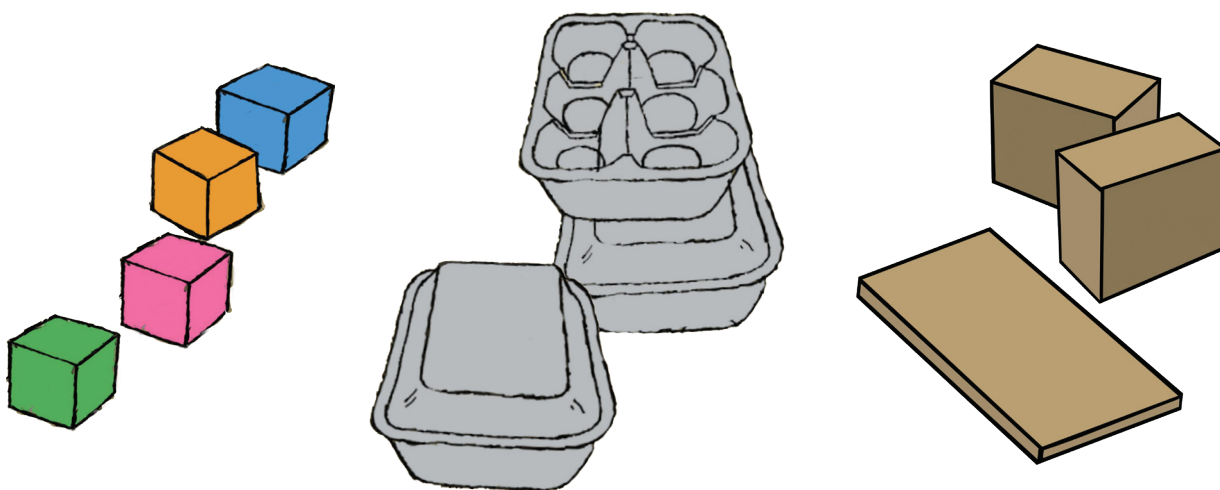
“Yay! It works,” says Bonggi.
“The wood is strong.”

“Yes, and the planks are wide enough for our cars,” explains Nolwazi.

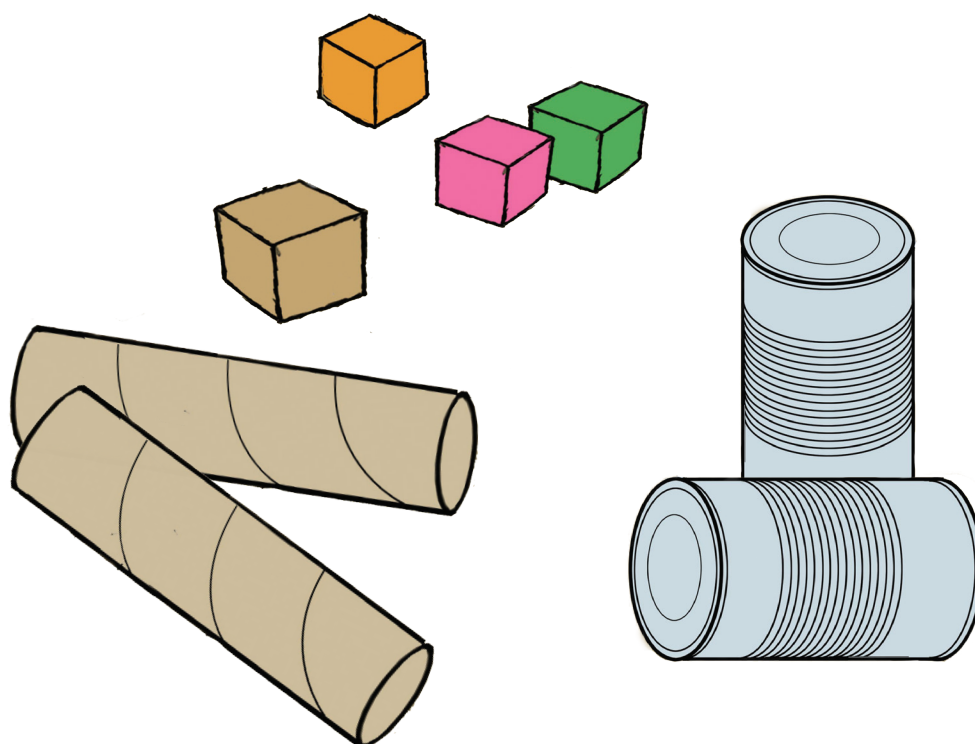
“Thank goodness this plan worked!” sighs Tshepo.

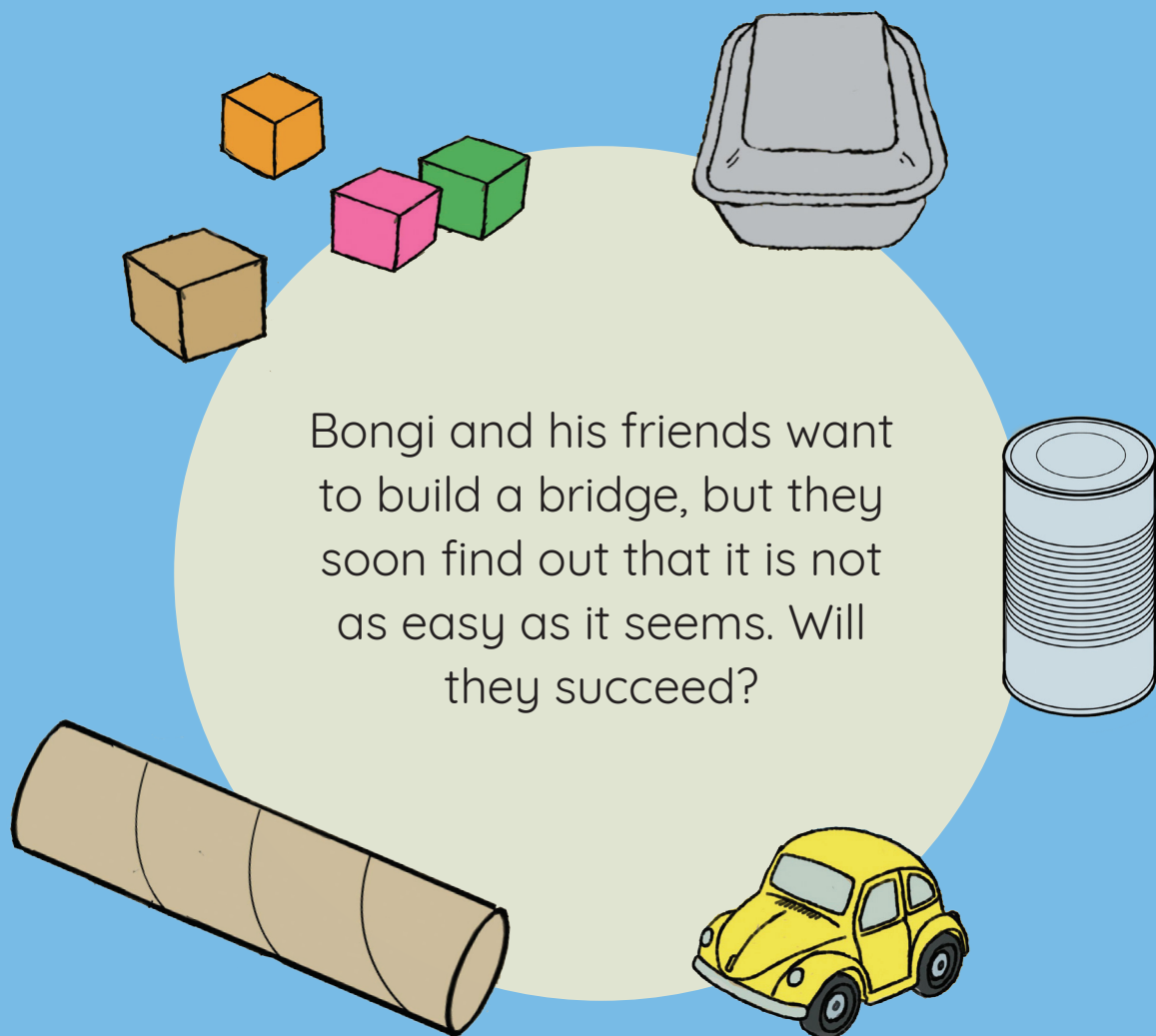
The friends spend the rest of the afternoon riding their cars across their new bridge ... and it doesn't wobble or break or make their cars go *bumpity-bump*.





What would you like to build?





Bongi and his friends want to build a bridge, but they soon find out that it is not as easy as it seems. Will they succeed?



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