

BLINK AT HOME

BUILDING IN ALASKA

How do people build earthquake proof buildings?

Skills to Develop

- + Science content knowledge
- + Science process skills
- + Fine motor skills

Materials

- + Cutting board
- + Building materials: LEGOs, blocks, Lincoln logs, etc.

WHAT TO DO

During the Learning Activity

1. Discuss what your child already knows about earthquakes. Ask: *what is an earthquake? How do we stay safe if there is an earthquake?*
2. Discuss that engineers design buildings to make them safer in an earthquake. Invite your child to be an engineer and construct a building on top of a cutting board. Explain that once they have finished construction, they will shake the cutting board to test how the building does in an earthquake.
3. Invite your child to test their building by shaking the cutting board. They can move the cutting board slowly to imitate a smaller earthquake, or move it more quickly to imitate a larger earthquake. Be aware of falling blocks and structures.
4. Invite your child to share their observations. Ask: *what happened to your building during the earthquake? What went well? What could go better? How could we build it differently to fix those problems?*
5. Rebuild your building and test it again. Continue the process of making changes, testing the construction, and sharing observations.
6. Discuss and practice earthquake safety using an appropriate approach for your child. Use the resources at [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) to help your child practice “Drop, Cover, Hold On” and create a family emergency plan that fits the needs of your family. Talk to daycare, school, healthcare providers, and friends and family members to ensure you and your child know earthquake procedures to stay safe during an emergency.

Extend the Fun

- + Learn about tsunamis and create buildings to withstand a sink or bathtub tsunami.
- + Investigate and compare different building material options.