

Structure: Bridges

Early Learning Goals:

Birth to 3:

- Explore different materials, using all their senses to investigate them. Manipulate and play with different materials.
- Express preferences and decisions. They also try new things and start establishing their autonomy.
- Use their imagination as they consider what they can do with different materials.
- Make simple models which express their ideas.

Key Facts:

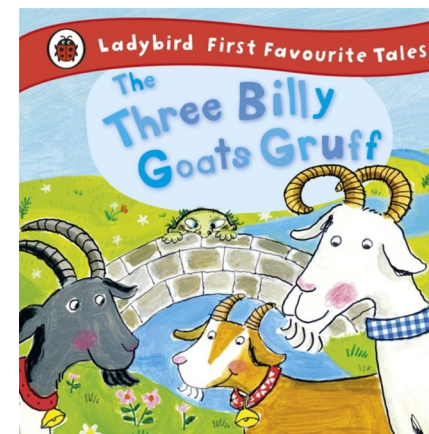
- A bridge is a stable structure which helps people, cars, or trains cross over an obstacle (river, road etc.)
- Tests check if something works to see if it needs changing.
- Bridges must be strong a stable so that they do not fall down.
- Different shapes make bridges stronger – triangles, arches, and pillars help hold weight.

Key Skills:

- Understand the purpose of a bridge and why they are needed.
- Experiment with materials (cardboard, paper, wood) to make simple models of bridges.
- Develop early stacking, balancing, joining and reinforcing skills to create stable structures.
- Practice testing and changing their bridges as required to ensure they are stable.
- Have discussions about their bridges and the choices made during the process.

Possible experiences:

- Form bridges in their environments.
- Recreate the story using their bridges.



Key Vocabulary

Model	A small copy of something.
Stack	Placing on thing on top of another.
Balance	To try and stay steady; not fall over.
Join	Connect materials to build something new.
Stable	Something which will not fall over.

Linked Texts:

- Let's Build a House by Mick Manning
- Rosa's Big Bridge Experiment by Jessica Spanyol