



# Make a Community Reading/Story Fort (Adaptable for all ages)



## READY-TO-SHARE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Calling all builders, dreamers, and book lovers! Ready to construct something epic? Join us for an afternoon of cardboard engineering as we build a community reading fort right inside the library with Makedo tools.

Cut, fold, connect, and collaborate to build a cozy community space, then settle in and let your imagination take hold. Whether your fort becomes a castle, a spaceship, or a secret hideout, every great story deserves an epic place to be read!

We'll provide mountains of cardboard to reuse and upcycle, along with Makedo tools (kid-safe saws and connectors made for cardboard). You bring the imagination, and let the adventure begin!

## SKILLS

- Collaboration and communication
- Design and spatial thinking
- Storytelling and imaginative play

## CONCEPTS / STANDARDS

- Community building through shared creative experiences
- Integrating physical spaces with storytelling
- Collaborative structures and iterative designs

## TIME COMMITMENT

45 min - 1 hr

## AGE GROUP

Adaptable for all ages: 4-8, 8-12, 12+

## MATERIALS

- Makedo Invent Kit
- Oversized upcycled cardboard (Think moving, TV, or appliance boxes)
- [Program Slides](#)
- Paper, if participants want to sketch ideas before creating
- Markers, crayons, or paint for decorating
- Book: Not-a-Box City
- Books to read in the finished fort



## SETUP

- A few weeks before the event, start saving cardboard. For this creation, the bigger the boxes, the better! Boxes from TVs, appliances, or anything oversized will be great for this event. You will need enough for multiple participants to build a section of the fort, so reach out to the community for donations.
- Designate a clear floor space large enough for collaborative building and mark out the footprint with painter's tape.
- Sort Makedo tools and Scrus in containers so families and makers can get started quickly.
- Prepare a small basket of books for each station, tailored to the age group you are leading.
- Before the learners attend, you'll want to build the first room or start of the community fort. This way, each attendee can be inspired to add to it and build an epic community-built reading fort.

## ENGAGE AND FACILITATE

- Read **Not-a-Box City** to inspire community building. Then ask the group, what makes a perfect community reading spot? Invite a few answers, then pull up the [Program Slides](#) showing examples of imaginative reading nooks and kid-built forts from around the world.
- Use this as a springboard to introduce the big idea that today, the group is being challenged to build their own community reading space together. The only rule is that it feels like a place where stories come alive!

- Allow at least 25-30 minutes for families to plan and build. Encourage makers to think about the story their fort is unearthing before they start cutting. Will it be a cave? A rocket? A castle?
- Remind builders that Makedo makes it easy to iterate designs. Makedo Scru-Drivers make it easy to connect and reconnect, so there is no such thing as a wrong first attempt.
- When building wraps up, bring the group together to ask participants what stories could be born in the fort? Give everyone a few quiet minutes to sit and read inside the fort, or offer participants story starters so they can dream up their own story in the cosy space!
- If possible, leave your community fort up so readers can continue to enjoy it through summer reading!

## GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Before you started building, you had an idea in your head. Did your fort turn out the way you imagined it? What changed along the way?
- If a character from your favourite book moved into your fort, who would it be and what would they do there?
- What would you add to your fort if you had one more piece of cardboard and ten more minutes?
- Your fort was built with other people's ideas as well as your own. How did working together change what you created?

