

## *The Little Red Fort* Extension Activities for the Classroom

### Games:

#### Cooperation Challenge

Start this activity by giving each child three or four blocks at the most. Tell them they can build anything they want with their blocks. Make suggestions to build a house, a zoo, a bridge, etc. and suggest they all work together using what each of them have to build a fun project. Point out that they could not build much alone with the blocks that they started with but working together would give them more opportunities to create more things.

### Music and Movement Activities:

#### Musical Hula Hoops

<https://www.mypreschoolplan.com/preschool-activities/ideas.html>

This is like musical chairs, but it is a game of cooperation instead of getting people “out” of the game. Use four hula hoops and lay them on the floor making a square. If you don't have hula hoops, you can use tape and mark off four large circles or squares.

The class will stand in a circle around the hoops. When the music stops, everyone has to get into one of the hoops. Start the music again but remove a hoop. When the music stops, the children must help everyone get into the remaining hoops. Continue until you are down to one hoop and see how well they can help each other get into the last hoop.

#### Group maze

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/teaching-cooperative-play-prekindergarten>

Get a large, shallow box or box lid and create a colorful 3D maze with foam or rubber strips. Have a group of children stand around the box, holding it by the edge. Place a toy car or a ball (use an age-appropriate object, for safety) at one end of the maze and have the children work to move it through the maze by raising, lowering, and tilting the box together.

You can also do this without a maze by instead having students roll the ball around the edge of the box and not letting it roll into the middle.

This activity is great for practicing conflict resolution skills. Observe how children identify the problem—moving the object—and see if they can work together to try different solutions until they find one that works. After observing for a few minutes, help facilitate different ideas and solutions by asking questions so they can see that in many instances there is more than one right answer.



### **“Ruby Works with One Hammer”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qV3QhzjBMk> (sample tune)

Ruby works with one hammer, *(move one hand up and down like using hammer)*  
one hammer, one hammer.

Ruby works with one hammer,

Then she works with two. *(move two hands up and down like using hammer.)*

Ruby works with two hammers... Then she works with three.

*(hammer with both hands and stamp one foot on floor.)*

Ruby works with three hammers... Then she works with four.

*(hammer with both hands and stamp both feet on floor.)*

Ruby works with four hammers... Then she works with five.

*(hammer with both hands, stamp both feet on floor, and nod head up and down.)*

Ruby works with five hammers... Then she goes to sleep.

*(hammer with both hands, stamp feet on floor, nod head, then rest head on joined palms & pretend to go to sleep.)*

### **“Construction Worker Song” (to tune of “Here we Go ’round the Mulberry Bush”)**

This is the way we pound our nails,  
pound our nails, pound our nails.

This is the way we pound our nails,  
So early in the morning

*Other verses:*

saw our wood

use a screwdriver

drill a hole

stack the bricks

paint the walls

stir the paint

If you and your students enjoyed reading *The Little Red Fort*, be sure to check out these books too:

- ***Bunny Built*** by Michael Slack
- ***When Grandpa Give You a Toolbox*** by Jamie L. B. Deenihan
- ***Duck and Goose*** by Tad Hills

Construction: <https://bookroo.com/books/topics/building-things>

Cooperation: <https://thekindergartenconnection.com/must-read-books-about-cooperation/>