

Work Together Wednesday

Activity Lesson: Engineering + Snack Time

Materials:

- Toothpicks, pretzel sticks, uncooked spaghetti noodles
- Any of the following snack items to join the toothpicks:
 - banana slices
 - chopped apples
 - grapes (whole or halved)
 - chopped pineapple, watermelon, cantaloupe, etc.
 - cheese cubes
 - marshmallows

**I would suggest using toothpicks in this activity, but you will need to warn the children about the sharp points on the toothpicks. If you are working with younger kids or are worried about them using toothpicks, pretzel sticks or uncooked spaghetti noodles (cut in to smaller pieces) are great alternatives.

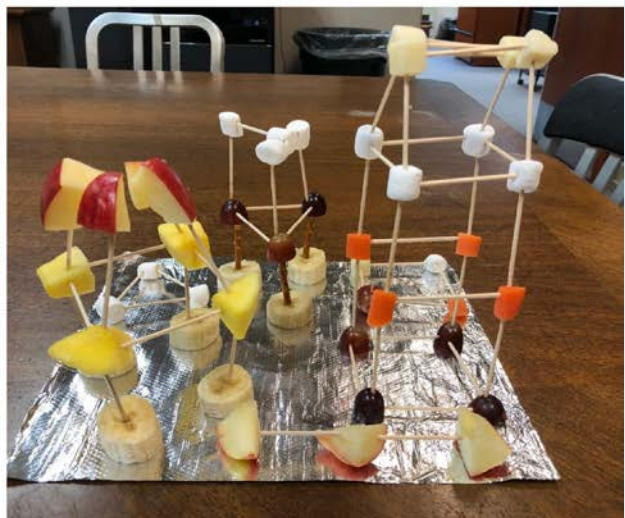
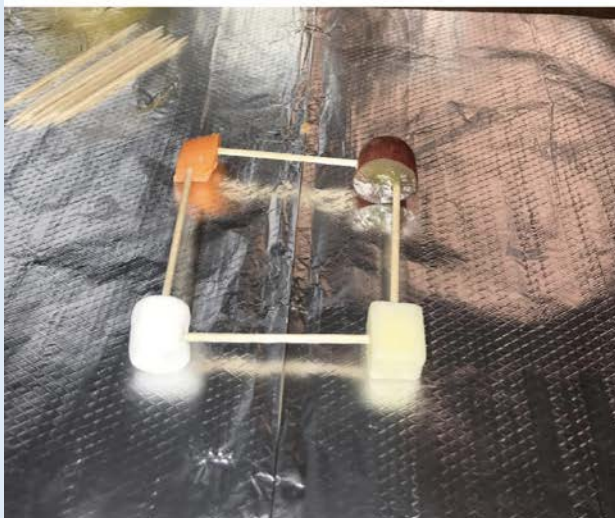
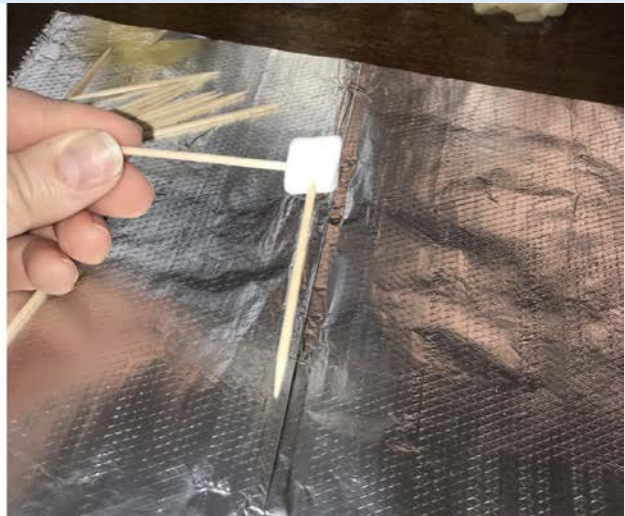


Skills Used

- ✓ Fine motor
- ✓ Engineering
- ✓ Building
- ✓ Creative
- ✓ Plus, it's a fun (mostly healthy) snack!

Procedure

1. Put all of the snack items in separate bowls/cups in reach of the kids
2. Give each student a handful of toothpicks (pretzel sticks, uncooked spaghetti noodles)
3. Start by showing the students how to connect 2 of the toothpicks, having them copy what you are making
4. Then have everyone make a square, using any of the snack items provided; next, a triangle, rectangle, etc.
5. Once the children are comfortable connecting toothpicks and see how to make shapes, encourage them to build a tower, house, castle, or whatever kind of structure they wish!
 - a. It would be a good idea to have some pre-made structures to give the children some ideas of what to make
 - b. As the students are playing with the materials and building, discuss the pros and cons of each building material (i.e. the bananas are slippery, the grapes are too squishy)



Discussion

- ❖ What kind of structure did you build? (house, castle, etc.)
- ❖ Which of the snacks made the strongest structure?
- ❖ Which snacks did you use the most of? Why?
- ❖ What other food items could you use to build your structure?

References

Julie (2016). Engineering with food: Preschool STEM. My Mundane & Miraculous Life.
Retrieved on April 17, 2018, from
<https://www.mymundaneandmiraculouslife.com/engineering-food-preschool-stem/>

