# Why does my child play in a box?

by Claire Erny, Marketing & Communications Intern, The Children's Home



Toys have been found in prehistoric archeological sites throughout the world. In fact, in Nagada, Egypt, marbles were recovered from a child's grave and were dated to be from 4000 BC.

If prehistoric parents provided their prehistoric children prehistoric toys, then it's a safe bet our ancient ancestors were just as dismayed as modern parents when the child plays with their toy for 15-minutes…and the box it came in for hours.

Why would a child prefer something as simple as a cardboard box over an actual toy? Experts at The Children's Home say one might consider how the seemingly dull cardboard box offers keys to an entire new world.

Carolyn Brinkmann, director of early childhood and school age services at CoStars by The Children's Home says that "children love to explore and boxes are fun."

"An empty box is full of possibilities and provides kids with an opportunity for creativity and make-believe play," she said. "Boxes can be easily manipulated, which makes them perfect for young children. A large box can become a house, a car or a place to hide when children are feeling overwhelmed."

A toy has one way it can be played with. But a box often has infinite possibilities, according to the educators at CoStars Preschool. When a child sees an empty and plain cardboard box, they see a chance to enhance their creativity and imagination as they transform these boxes into new inventions.

"A box is often the perfect blank slate for young minds that are fueled by imagination," said Ashley Thompson, assistant preschool teacher at CoStars by The Children's Home. "Our young learners will take a few crayons and string and can magically transform a box into a jet, a car, a

fort or even a train. It's a box…until our kids make it anything but a box."

Before recycling day arrives, consider watching your child's creativity and imagination grow when they create a vibrant world all their own from a plain old cardboard box.





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