

BLINK AT HOME

BEAVER HOMES

How do beavers build lodges and dams?

Skills to Develop

- + Science content knowledge
- + Science process skills
- + Fine motor skills

Materials

- + Large plastic container
- + Popsicle sticks or straws
- + Pipe cleaners
- + Rocks
- + Water
- + Dirt recipe card [PDF]

WHAT TO DO

During the Learning Activity

1. Discuss what your child already knows about beavers. Ask: *where do beavers live? What do beavers eat? What else do you know about beavers?*
2. Learn more about beavers by reading a book or watching video segments about beavers from [BBC Earth](#) or [PBS Nature](#). Discuss what you learn about beavers and their homes. Explain that you are going to be beavers and build your own beaver lodge.
3. Gather dirt or follow the instructions on the dirt recipe card [PDF] to create your own. Place dirt in a large plastic container along with beaver lodge building materials. Discuss how beavers build their lodges and dams and invite your child to build their own lodge or dam using the building materials.
4. Once they are happy with their construction, test it to see what happens. Pour water on one side of the lodge or dam. Invite your child to share their thoughts and observations as you pour. Ask: *how well did the lodge or dam work? What changes would you make next time? Do you think beavers ever need to make repairs on their lodges and dams?*
5. Invite your child to make repairs to their lodge or build a new design before you test it again. Continue to make improvements as you learn more about how beavers construct their homes.

Extend the Fun

- + Build a life-size beaver lodge from blankets, pillows, and other building materials.
- + Learn about other types of animal homes in Alaska.