

# “You Can Cut the Wood”

I notice Jude, Austin, and Jayda putting pencils behind their ears while they are working in the construction zone area.

“You look very prepared with the pencils behind your ears. Have you seen a construction worker do that before?” I ask them.

“Handy Manny does it!” Jayda informs me.

“Oh, I see!” I reply.

“You can cut the wood,” Jayda tells Owen.

“Ok! I’m cutting the wood! We’re real construction workers!” Owen exclaims as he starts to “cut the wood”.

“Where do I go?” Jude asks.

“You can saw the wood, Jude,” Jayda says and Jude starts “sawing the wood”.

“I need to hammer the nails!” Austin shouts.

“I’m knocking the nails in,” Alexa says as she grabs a hammer.

“I level and I glue!” Jude shouts as he gets the level out.

“I’m fixing the wood!” Ally squeals as she pats a block.

I see Jayda copying names off of the board and on to a piece of paper.

“Oh Jayda, are you writing a list?” I ask.

“I’m writing the things that people need to do. Can you write everyone’s name down?” Jayda asks.

“You are doing an excellent job copying down the names, you don’t need me to do it,” I tell her as the other children watch her continue to carefully copy down the names, shouting out the name as she writes it.

“Hey! We’re supposed to be working right now and you’re being silly,” Jayda says to Owen and Alyssa as she sees them rolling around on the floor together.

“Oh,” Owen and Alyssa respond and start to get their tools out again. The group continues to work away while Jayda tells them what new jobs need to be completed.



## *Why this matters:*

*They are reshaping cultural experiences, as a group deciding what construction work looks like. They are growing in their understanding of how to spell different words, reading and writing the names of people in their class. They are using language and print to instruct, telling children what their “jobs” will be and making sure everyone has a job. They are bringing pop culture in to the classroom, sharing what “Handy Manny” does.*

*Sarah Dobbin, December 2012*