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### Shape Building: Reflection

While brainstorming activities to involve exploration and shape knowledge, I remembered an activity from one of my peers' classroom. This STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) activity involves mathematics and engineering.

The students are invited to explore shapes using a hands-on approach with materials that they are interested in, such as marshmallows/Playdoh and toothpicks. Students are engaged and involved in a building process. Although they are asked to complete a final product (the square and the triangle), they are encouraged to create their own sculpture. The students are not technically required to finish the sculpture, rather to engage in the process of building their own creation. This lesson can touch upon many of Quebec's Kindergarten curriculum. In my lesson, I focused on peer interaction and fine motor skills. However, the students also worked on their knowledge of the world and personality development. By creating their own sculpture with their peers, the students communicated and created something they are interested in and like. By exploring the materials, the students develop new knowledge about the world around them and fine motor through coordination and muscle work.

This lesson allows the teacher to develop an understanding of the importance with engaging the students in play and explorations. When the students have the abilities to make what they enjoy, they still develop the skills and knowledge required in the curriculum. It also engages into becoming more curious about the world and enthusiastic about learning.