

LEGO® Education BuildToExpress Self-Guided Activity for Teachers

As a teacher, it is important to have a personal understanding of the LEGO® Education BuildToExpress process.

Use the self-guided activity below to walk through the same process your students will experience. Allow three to five minutes to complete each Building Challenge and another five to 10 minutes to share and reflect on your model.

This activity is a great way to get more familiar with the BuildToExpress process and to refresh the skills and experience gained from completing the BuildToExpress training. For more information refer to the Teacher's Guide for BuildToExpress.

This activity was designed to be completed independently but sharing the experience with a partner is encouraged if possible. When working with a partner, share your ideas verbally instead of writing them down. Alternatively, make copies of the Challenge Card activity pages included in the Self-Guided Activity for Teachers so that your partner can also complete and document his or her experience. Suggestions for how to lead a partner or small group through this activity have been included in italics throughout the process.

Follow the directions below to complete this series of Building Challenges.

Before you Begin:

1. Brainstorm a list of different types of conversations one might have over the course of a day.

Think about conversations you have had with family members or colleagues, phone calls with parents, or discussions with school administrators.

When working with a partner or small group, have one person record everyone's ideas on a blackboard or chart paper as others share their thoughts.

2. Expand on these ideas.

Reflect and write a list of where different types of conversations happen. Did the conversation take place face-to-face, over the phone, or over the computer? How do these different methods of conversation affect the conversation itself?

Build and Share:

Build and share your models by following the steps outlined in the Challenge Cards provided with this activity.



Tip:

This activity can be used to start a conversation with colleagues and administrators about how to implement the BuildToExpress process in your school. It can also be used to introduce parents and other community members to the BuildToExpress experience and help them understand its value in the classroom.



Challenge Card 1: Think About

1. Open your LEGO® Education BuildToExpress Set and complete the following Building Challenge:

Think About: Build a model that represents a conversation you had today.

2. Take a picture or draw your model here:

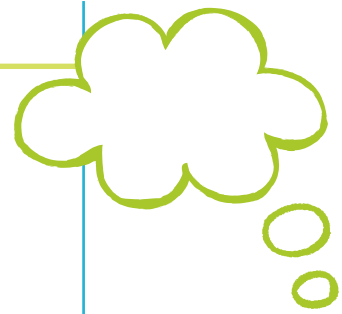
3. Share your ideas about the model you have created.
If you are completing this activity independently, write your ideas below in point form or in a paragraph.

When working with a partner or small group, take turns describing your own models.

4. Elaborate on your story.
Can you expand on these thoughts? Add more detail to what you have shared about your model. Facilitating questions like the ones below encourage deeper thought and reflection and prompt participants to provide additional details.

When working with a partner or small group, take turns asking each other the questions below or create your own questions to learn more about someone else's model.

Think about your model and respond to the following questions:	Response:
What is the most important part of your model? Why?	
Choose another element that is very significant to the meaning of your model. What does this specific element represent?	
If you removed one element, how would it change the model?	



Tip:

It is a good idea to document the model you have created so that it can be referenced or remembered later. The Recap and Reflect Worksheets located in the Support Material section of this activity pack are excellent tools to do this.



Tip:

General suggestions for facilitating questions have been pre-written for this activity for ease of independent use. When completing this activity with others, it is important to tailor the facilitating questions asked to the specific model that has been built. See the Quick Start Guide of this activity pack for more information on how to develop effective facilitating questions.

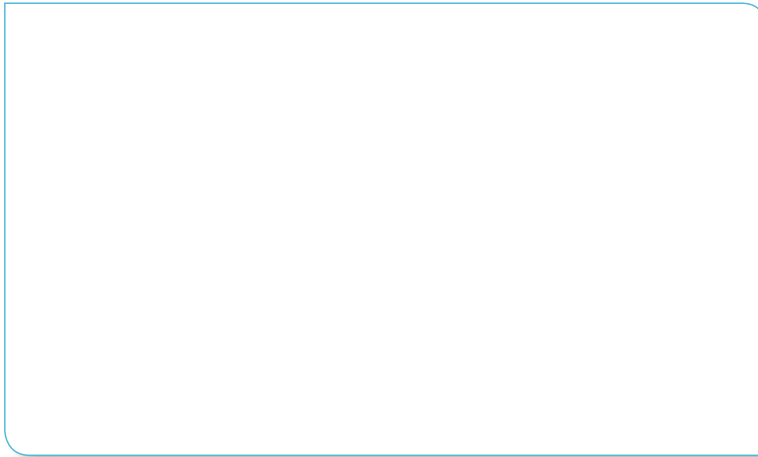
Challenge Card 2: Remember

Draw from your own experiences to expand your understanding.

1. Complete the following Building Challenge:

Remember: Think of another situation where you had a conversation like this with someone important in your life. Build a model that represents how that conversation made you feel.

2. Take a picture or draw your model here:



3. Share your ideas about the model you created.

This can be done verbally if a partner is present, or it can be done by writing ideas down in point form or in a paragraph.

4. Elaborate on your story.

Can you expand on these thoughts? Add more detail to what you have shared about your model.

Think about your model and respond to the following questions:	Response:
If you had more time to build and could change something about your model, what would you change and why?	
If you could add a person to your model, who would you add and why?	



Challenge Card 3: Imagine

Having thought about the topic in more detail and reflected on past experience, you should have a deeper understanding of the topic.

1. Complete the following Building Challenge:

Imagine: Imagine that you are having this conversation with a person you do not know who lives and works in another country or community. Build a model that represents how this conversation would be different.

2. Take a picture or draw your model here:

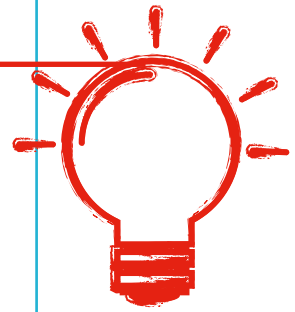
3. Share your ideas about the model you created.

This can be done verbally if a partner is present, or it can be done by writing ideas down in point form or in a paragraph.

4. Elaborate on your story.

Can you expand on these thoughts? Add more detail to what you have shared about your model.

Think about your model and respond to the following questions:	Response:
If you could add something to this model that would represent a way to make the conversation more effective or "better," what would it be and why?	
Think about where you have placed certain elements of your model. What does this placement mean?	



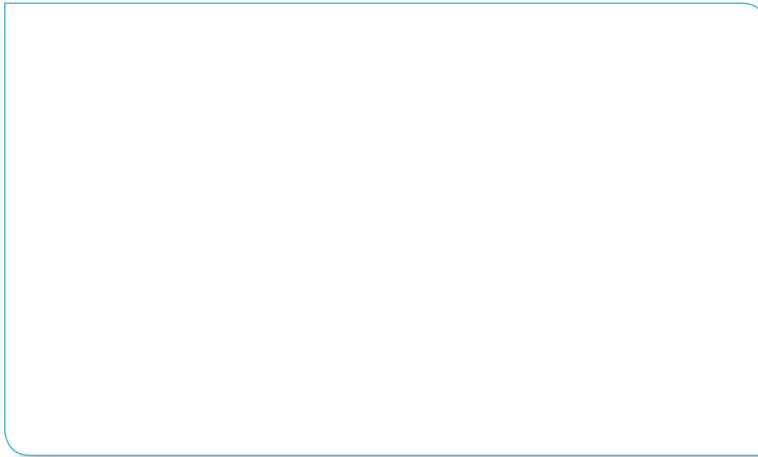
Challenge Card 4: Conclude

Reflect on what you have learned about conversation. Think about what you said or heard during this activity.

1. Complete the following Building Challenge:

Conclude: Build a model that represents a “good” conversation.

2. Take a picture or draw your model here:



3. Share your ideas about the model you created.

This can be done verbally if a partner is present, or it can be done by writing ideas down in point form or in a paragraph.

4. Elaborate on your story.

Can you expand on these thoughts? Add more detail to what you have shared about your model.

Think about your model and respond to the following questions:	Response:
What have you learned after reflecting on your model?	
If another person were looking at your model, what would they think is the most important element and why?	
If working with a partner or small group: If you could add something from somebody else's model, what would it be and why?	



What's Next?

- Reflect on your experience using LEGO® Education BuildToExpress. Think about what was rewarding and what was challenging about the experience. Brainstorm a list of ways you could see yourself using this process with your students or in your community.
- Think about a particular topic or idea that you would like your students to explore using BuildToExpress. Brainstorm some Building Challenges of your own, being sure to follow the model used throughout the BuildToExpress series (Think About, Remember, Imagine, Conclude). For more ideas, consult the Warm-Up Activities and the Building Challenge List located in the Support Material section of this activity pack.
- Use the Customizable Activity Plan and the Weekly Planning Calendar available in the Support Material section of this activity pack to develop and schedule activities including BuildToExpress in your classroom or community.
- Review the Recap and Reflect Worksheets found in the Support Material section of this activity pack. They are an excellent resource to encourage students to document and reflect on their models and ideas. Examples outlining possibilities for how these templates can be used have been provided in the Examples section of this activity pack.
- Share your ideas with colleagues and try out some of their ideas in your own classroom.