

# The Stacking of the Paper Pieces

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The game takes place on any tabletop, and the rules are very simple: see how many pieces of paper the player can stand up against one another before the entire structure falls. Object play is the most prevalent here, more specifically construction play, as the goal is to manipulate the objects (paper) to create a structure. Each piece of paper is a different shape with a different distribution of weight, so exploration is required in order to balance each individual piece. No two structures created by playing this game will ever be the same, so the creative possibilities are endless.

This game challenges and develops the players' sense of balance, hand-eye coordination, concentration, and ability to cope with loss (since the structure is inevitably destroyed). To successfully balance a piece of paper on another, one needs to become very familiar with the nature of the paper itself, the shape of the individual piece, and the way the weight is distributed. When placing the piece down, a very high level of delicacy and dexterity is necessary to find the right point of pressure without accidentally toppling the entire structure down. And as the game progresses and the structure becomes more complex and fragile, each placement requires an increasing level of sensitivity, awareness and concentration.

This type of coordination and concentration can be translated to many aspects of day-to-day life. Being aware of one's surroundings and the way objects interact with each other with respect to balance and gravity is important. In any given environment, it is beneficial to know whether the structure around you (natural or not) is stable enough to hold your weight or withstand the elements. This could be true when walking through a forest and you must step over a fallen tree, or if you are crossing a creek and are unsure of the stability of the rocks you are walking on.

Assembly and construction are things which every human partakes in many times throughout life, even if you aren't a construction worker. Putting together furniture, arranging the interior of a room, making a sandwich, and changing a lightbulb are just a few of countless examples of where experience and awareness of balance and structural integrity are important, and where playing this game of balancing papers could possibly prove useful as a form of training.

The game can also be played with multiple players (turning it into a form of social play), in which both competition and cooperation are involved. Cooperation to collaborate on building a bigger and more interesting structure, and competition for who is the best at balancing the pieces, both of which will benefit the human as a social animal and as an individual.



also a great game for inter-species play

## Bibliography

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*This chapter goes in depth on object play and imaginative play, and talks in detail about the way play helps children develop cognitively.*