

Episode: “On Boredway”

The elevator is closed for an inspection, and that means all of Albie’s plans with friends are canceled. She will have to play alone all day! With some guidance from a creative elevator inspector, Albie learns that boredom can actually be a great thing.

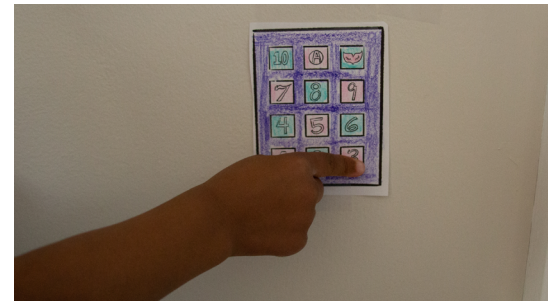
Activity

Materials:

- Printer and printed elevator parts template
- Coloring supplies
- Scissors
- Tape
- A door, closet or small space
- Brad fastener (optional)

Steps:

1. Watch “On Boredway,” and see Albie transform her boredom into imagination. You can do the same at home, transforming an ordinary space into a pretend, magical elevator of your own.
2. Print the elevator parts template, featuring elevator buttons and a floor counter. Color in each of the different parts.
3. Together, cut out your elevator parts, using the dotted lines as a guide.
4. If you have a brad fastener, use it to attach the arrow to the floor counter so that the arrow can rotate back and forth.
5. Help your child decide where each piece should hang on your door, closet or small space. Consider putting the up and down button on the outside of your “elevator” and the numbered key pad on the inside. Where should the floor counter go so everyone can see it?



No printer? No problem! Help your child draw circles with numbers for the elevator key pad, arrows for up and down buttons and a simple floor counter.

Albie's Elevator

6. Help your child tape each part onto the wall, door or space to transform it into a pretend elevator.
7. Start playing! Invite your child to imagine that they are the elevator operator, while you are a guest on the elevator. Ask them for different floor numbers and allow them to “press” the right button and move the arrow to the current floor. The child might also choose to be the elevator inspector, just like Inspector Johnny, and can check the elevator for repairs.
8. Encourage your child’s imaginative play by adding props or Albie puppets and acting out different scenes in the elevator. Try ringing a bell when you arrive at each floor or welcoming new visitors or neighbors into the space. What magical thing happens each time the elevator doors open?

Tips

- Invite your child to play dress-up in the elevator. Grown-ups can get in character too! Pretend to be someone different each time your child opens the door.
- Commit to the imaginative play and your child will follow. It might just be a flat piece of paper, but if you lean into the make believe, your child’s imagination will ignite.

In this activity, your child:

- Engaged their fine motor skills in coloring, cutting and taping
- Used critical thinking to problem solve in placing their elevator parts
- Used their imagination to create and inhabit a pretend elevator
- Engaged in creative and imaginative play

Talk to your child! Conversation Starters:

- Albie was sad to find out she’d be playing alone and not with friends but found some great ways to play by herself. What’s your favorite or least favorite thing about playing alone? Practice playing by yourself in the elevator. Maybe some imaginary neighbors will visit.
- What are some times that you have felt bored? Think about long car rides, waiting in line, waiting to fall asleep or other moments without a lot of activity. Can you think of things to do when you feel this way?

Albie's Elevator

Keep Going!

Adding Portals

There's lots of magical little doors and portals in Albie's elevator. Add some of your own by folding a piece of paper in half, like a greeting card. On the outside, draw a doorknob. On the inside, draw where your portal leads. Is it Huggy's Groove Room? An artist's studio? Somewhere else amazing? Add it to your elevator.

Add More Characters

Encourage your child to bring their stuffed animals or toys with them into their elevator. Maybe these toys can become characters who visit a new place. You can also bring the *Albie's Elevator* puppet printables into your elevator and act out different stories.

Elevator Fort

Using a door for an elevator can be fun, but constructing your own elevator fort is pretty cool too! Use pillows, blankets, chairs or boxes to create a creative and cozy spot for your elevator.

Vocabulary

Imagine: Using your mind to come up with pretend places, people, things or ideas

Inspector: Someone who takes a close look at something to make sure it is working or see if it needs fixing





Related Resources

More At-Home Activities

Visit PBS LearningMedia for more activities like this inspired by *Albie's Elevator*.

Children's Books with Related Themes

Check out these children's books online or at your local library to continue exploring the concepts in this episode.

The Year We Learned to Fly by Jacqueline Woodson

A brother and sister are stuck inside on a rainy day and follow their grandmother's advice to use their brilliant minds and imaginations to escape their boredom.

It's Not a Box by Antoinette Portis

An imaginative bunny explains that his box is anything but a simple box.

Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson

Harold shows us that we can create and imagine a whole world with just a crayon.