



INTRODUCTION AND PARTY INVITATIONS

Can we fix it? That's a *Bob the Builder*[™] question to which his friends always answer, *Yes, we can!* This TV show is a huge hit with small children who love to watch Bob and his gang do renovations, construction, and repairs with one another to help solve problems in Bobsville and in season 2, *Sunflower Valley*. With cooperation as a major theme in this program, this is a great thematic construction party for your kids.

Using heavy cardstock in blue or orange colors, cut down to invitation card size. Download pictures of *Bob the Builder* and place on the front of the invitation card. Inside include all of your party details.

Alternatively, purchase plastic tools and tie your invitation card to the tool and hand-deliver these to your guests. Request that the kids bring their tools with them to the party.

Use thematic language in your invitation: *Foreman (your child's name) is turning (age), which means there's a lot of work to do. Come party with us at (your last name) Construction site, (day of the week), (date). It will be Dynamite!*

Your shift begins at (time) and lasts until (time). We will have lots of fun! Plan on getting dirty!

Remind your *Bob the Builder* birthday party guests to wear orange T-shirts and denim shirts, and to bring a change of clothes, just in case.

DECORATIONS

Mark the party spot by hanging balloons around the front of your home.

Tape plastic tools to your front door.

Hang some fun signs like *Bob at Work*, *Fresh Cake*, and *Party Zone Ahead*, which you can make yourself with some construction paper and markers.



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Create a purple road by purchasing two plastic purple tablecloths, cutting them in half and taping them down to your floor. Use wide white tape to lay down solid and dashed lines on the road. Have the birthday child help create this decoration.

Hang plastic tools around the party area to make it look like Bob's tool shed, or hang construction machine poster board cutouts to make it look like a construction site.

Cover the party table with a *Bob the Builder* table cover or a solid tablecloth in *Bob the Builder* colors, orange and blue.

Ensure each place setting has a *Bob the Builder* plate, napkin, cup and utensils.

Add any *Bob the Builder* or plastic construction toys your child may have to the table as a centerpiece. Don't forget toy trucks and other construction related toys (try filling a truck with chips or other snack food, but remember to wash and clean the toy first).

Hang balloons in bunches for best effect by tying a colorful ribbon around the strings of several balloons, so they hang together. Try *Bob the Builder* colors such as orange, black, yellow, blue, and red or *Bob the Builder* foil balloons.

Attach streamers to a light fixture in the center of the party table to add to the festive environment. Use *Bob the Builder* colors. Create two-toned streamers by placing two different colored streamers back-to-back and twisting (try two of any of the following: orange, black, yellow, blue and red).

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Greet the party guests as they arrive by giving them a carpenter apron (or nail apron) and a plastic hard hat (or paper *Bob the Builder* party hat). Consider using a plastic deluxe hard hat for the birthday child, and paper party cone hats for the rest of the guests.

Invite the kids to decorate their hard hats with theme stickers (and other decorative items) while they are waiting for others to arrive.

Fill a jar with small plastic building blocks. Have each guest guess how many building blocks are in the jar. At the end of the party award the guest with the closest guess a special favor.

Build a Town. Collect as many building toys (blocks, plastic building blocks, construction set, wood logs and more) as you can find. Ask neighbors or the parents of party guests to bring some (but make sure to label them so they can be returned properly at the end of the party). Spread the building toys throughout the party area and encourage guests to build a town. Try having each guest act like a different piece of construction equipment.



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Bob's Mobile Phone Search. Hide plastic cell phones (one per guest) throughout the party area. Announce, "Oh no! Bob's lost his cell phone again! Could everyone please look to find Bob's cell phone?" For special effect, if you have a cell phone or other ringing device, have it ring at the start of the game. Let the guests keep the toy cell phones they find.

Wheelbarrow Race. A traditional wheelbarrow game: pair up the guests, have one child of each pair get on their hands and knees, have the other child pick up the kneeling child's legs from behind (if children are having a difficult time, recommend they grab from the thighs). Race to the finish line.

Sandbox/Dirt Time. Walk guests to the sandbox/dirt area to have some time playing with toys in the dirt/sand. If the party is indoors, use a large plastic box (or line a box with a plastic trash bag), and fill with sand from a local home improvement store. Add-On: before the party, hide small toys and favors in the sandbox for the guests to discover as they dig.

Construction Race. Break up the party guests into two teams. Give each team a bucket of plastic blocks and other construction toys. Challenge each team to build the best-looking Muck the Dump Truck. Give the teams ten minutes then have them race to make a Lofty the Crane, Scoop the Digger, or Dizzy the Cement Mixer.

Fill the Bucket. Gather the guests into two groups and explain that the first to fill their bucket with sand wins, but they may only use their spoons.

Beanbag Rock Toss. Have guests stand in a line. Each guest gets several chances to toss a "rock" (beanbag) into the bed of the dump truck.

Musical Trucks. Cut the bottoms out of large cardboard boxes, and add four cardboard wheels cut from the bottoms of the cardboard boxes. Add a circular steering wheel inside the box. Paint the wheels and steering wheel black. Paint the rest of the box yellow. Have each guest get into their "construction trucks" (boxes). Explain that when the music is playing they may drive around, but when the music stops they must stop driving and sit down. Play the music, stopping at various intervals. To make the game more competitive, draw a finish line and have the guests try to drive their construction trucks across the finish line.

Brick by Brick Relay. Before the party, save empty cereal boxes and other cardboard packaging to use as *bricks*. Divide the bricks into two piles and divide the kids into two teams. The first players grab a brick, race a specified distance, and lay their bricks down to begin the wall. Each player in line continues until one team builds their wall with all of the bricks. First team done wins.

Play Block Builder. Use large Lego® blocks or any blocks that connect to each other. Before the party, hide the blocks around the party area so the kids have to go hunting



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for them. Send the kids off in small groups to find as many Lego® blocks as they can. The group with the largest set of connected Legos® is the winner.

PARTY MENU

Build a party menu based on Bob the Builder's characters:

Lofty's Grilled Tires: Burgers
 Muck's Mashed Potatoes
 Wendy's Bolts and Screws Salad — add raisins and nuts to the salad
 Roley's pasta — twist pasta to resemble screws.

Construction Worker Brown Bag Lunch. Prepare a brown bag lunch for each guest, just like real construction workers. One sandwich, bag of chips, apple and juice box makes a basic lunch. Use cookie cutters to turn the sandwiches into fun shapes.

Lofty Wheels. Split English muffins in half and arrange on a cookie sheet. Spread thin layer of baked beans on top of muffin halves. Sprinkle cheese on top of beans. Cut hot dogs into thirds then cut each length-wise into four strips. Arrange 6 hot dog strips for wheel spokes on top of each muffin. Bake at 375°F for 10-12 minutes, or until cheese melts.

Bob and Wendy's Tea and Biscuits. Serve tea and biscuits, just like Bob and Wendy do on the show.

Brownie Boulders. Prepare brownies according to recipe. Instead of cutting the brownies in equal rectangles, cut them in random messy shapes and serve them in the bed of a new toy dump truck, so the brownies look like boulders of dirt. Add-On: to add "grass" to the dirt brownie boulders, dye shaved coconut with green food coloring, then sprinkle on the brownie boulders.

Construction Crush. Combine 12 ounce can frozen juice concentrate, 3 cups nonfat milk, and 1 pint low-fat orange in a blender (you may have to halve ingredients to prevent blender from overflowing).

Bake a **Construction Chocolate Cake.**

Prepare chocolate fudge cake according to recipe. Since this will be a double layer cake, you may need to use two recipes.

Frost bottom cake layer with chocolate fudge frosting, then place the second layer on top. Frost the top and sides of cake.

Lay chocolate-covered graham crackers across middle of cake to make a dirt road.



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Near one corner of the cake, carefully cut out a small construction pit from the cake and make a dirt pile of cake crumbs next to it.

Place the dump truck toy near the pit.

Fill the pit and Muck dump truck with brown chocolate shell candy with peanuts (boulders) and place candy corn (traffic cones) around the pit.

On the opposite corner of the cake, attach pretzel logs together with frosting to form a square shape similar to the bottom of a log cabin.

Place Dizzy cement mixer on the cake near the dirt road. Squeeze some white frosting onto the back of the cement mixer so it looks like cement is pouring out of the end of the cement truck and onto the dirt road.

Roll the green gumdrops flat. Put a small sprinkle of cornstarch on them so they don't stick. With a cookie cutter, cut each piece into a circle. Put a dab of frosting on the ends of three pretzel logs and place the flattened gumdrops on top of the pretzels to make trees. Stick upright into cake.

Place remaining chocolate shell candy with peanuts around the base of the cake to make a border.

Top off the cake with construction zone candles.

PARTY FAVORS

Use lunchboxes and/or plastic hard hats and fill them with small construction vehicles, construction and *Bob the Builder* stickers and tattoos, miniature tool sets, carpenter pencils, bubble gum tape, a ruler, a whistle, flashing lights, etc.

During the party, make sure to take pictures of your little Bob the Builders and send them in your thank you notes for a party memento.



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