



IMAGINE YOUR STORY

Alice in Wonderland Build a House of Cards

Build a House of Cards

Activity from [Bedtime Math](#)

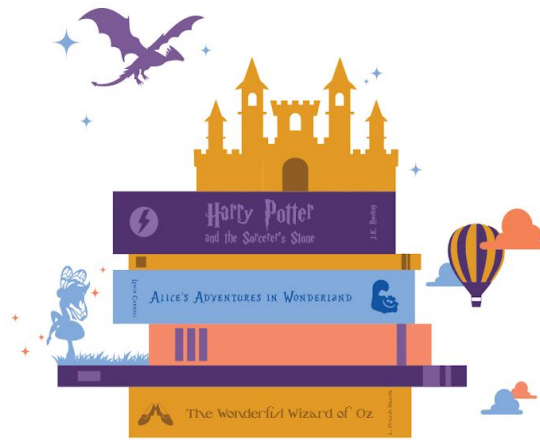
One of the simplest types of card houses is a triangular pyramid, made up of identical smaller triangles. To form a basic triangle, lean two playing cards against each other, with their tops touching, to form an inverted letter V.

Once you feel confident creating this basic shape, it's time to build a 2-level pyramid! First, build 2 basic triangles, side by side. I like to space the bottom triangles evenly so they are slanted at the same angle. One easy way to do this is by laying a playing card underneath or in front of the triangles.



How to Build a House of Cards





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To build the next level, carefully build a third triangle on top of the first two. Carefully balance a playing card on top of your first two triangles. This forms the bottom of the third triangle. Then lean two playing cards against each other, with their tops touching, to form an inverted letter V.

With a steady hand and lots of practice, you'll soon work your way up to a 3-level pyramid and beyond!

Card stacking is notoriously tricky, and it's all too easy to give up in frustration. Here are a few tips to help those cards stay up:

1. **Choose your cards carefully**

Most playing cards are coated with a glossy finish to make shuffling and dealing easy; unfortunately, the slippery surface makes it difficult to stack! Look for old cards whose finish has worn down, or look for the least glossy finish you can find. Guinness World Record Holder [Bryan Berg](#) uses Cartamundi's Ace Brand and the US Playing Card Company's Pla-more line. Use the stiffest, straightest cards in the pack.

2. **Build on a Rough Surface**

When it comes to card stacking, friction is your friend. It's difficult to balance cards on a slippery surface, so beginners should always build their card houses on a rug or carpet.

3. **Be Careful**

Try not to touch the rest of the cards while you're stacking.

4. **Be Patient**

Like anything, building a card house takes practice. It's not uncommon for one or two — or all — of the cards to fall while you're stacking. Keep trying!

