



## A Mini Excavator for the Goldfish Pond

### Learning values

- Investigating vehicle devices
- Making choices and fulfilling needs
- Exploring safety regulations

### Recommended materials

- 9333 Vehicles Set

### Vocabulary

Encourage the use of these words during the activity:

- Dig out
- Mini excavator
- Goldfish pond
- Narrow
- Width
- Reverse and turn
- Functionality
- Safety

### Connect

The Higgins family has decided to build a goldfish pond in their garden with lots of goldfish and beautiful water lilies. Mummy and Daddy set out Saturday morning with shovels, materials and a lot of energy.

Having planned where the goldfish pond should be, they start digging but they have not thought about how hard soil can be. By midday they are feeling really exhausted. Every muscle aches, but they have only dug a tiny hole.

They talk about what they should do. It will take the two of them far too long to finish, so they really need some help. They discuss hiring a mini excavator and a professional operator to do the job.



Use the illustration to support the Connect story

## Construct

- Design and make a mini excavator that can help the Higgins family dig out for their new goldfish pond. Make sure it can go through a narrow passage by their house.



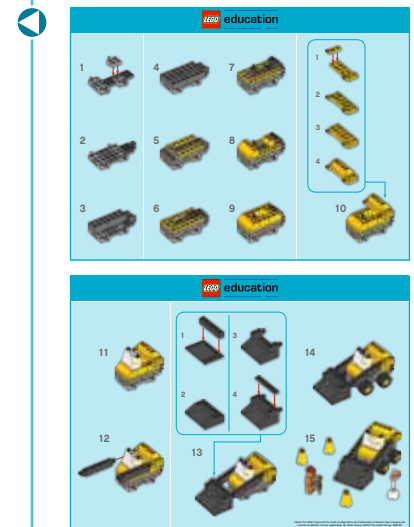
Suggested model solution

## Contemplate

- Ask the children to consider the width of the mini excavator. It has to be able to go through a narrow passage alongside the house and be able to reverse and turn within a limited space.
- Have the children test the mini excavator to see that it meets all the requirements of the job.
- How can the children make sure that the operator is safe in his seat, while still being able to see everything around him?

## Continue

- It is important to make sure that safety regulations are being followed while the excavation work is in progress. This means safety barriers and signs surrounding the pond to be. Build some sort of safety barrier and set up some warning signs to make sure that regulations are being met.
- The goldfish and the white water lilies are beautiful, and all the Higgins family members love to spend time watching life in the pond. They would like to have a bench close by, so they can sit and enjoy the goldfish. Build a bench and a small table next to the pond.



Can be used as inspiration





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