Classroom Management Tips

For Simple Machines

During Class
• At the beginning of the first lesson, allow the students some time to get to know the LEGO® brick set.
• Use a jar to collect stray pieces.
• Make adjustments in order to challenge the students who are ready to improve and develop new skills.
• Allow time for students to use the self-assessment rubric when they are done with the activity.
• Label the boxes so that you can recognize which box belongs to which student(s).
• Plan to stop the lesson with enough time to allow the students to tidy up.

After Class
• If you did not finish the activity, store the LEGO sets and the models so that they are ready for the next lesson.
• Evaluate the lesson.

How much time is needed?
There are many ways to use the Simple Machines Set in your classroom, and many different ways to plan your class schedule. Activities can be completed by individuals or by small teams or groups, depending upon the number of sets that are available to your class.

Most activities can be carried out within one lesson. A double lesson is ideal to be able to explore, build, and investigate the activities in depth, and especially for the students to make any creative variations of their own. In the case of the advanced (open-ended problem-solving activities), students should be able to tackle the challenge within a sequence of two lessons.

How do I organize the building instructions?
For easy classroom management we suggest storing the building instructions in binders so that they are close at hand and ready to use at the beginning of each lesson.

What's needed in my classroom?
Tables may be pushed aside to let models roll across a smooth floor and boxes may be needed for a ramp.

Students need to be able to construct in pairs facing each other or side-by-side. It is also an advantage to have a cupboard or shelves where you can store the sets lying flat with any unfinished models on top of them.

Hint
We suggest students work together in pairs, sharing a set between them.