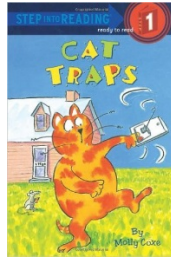# CAT TRAPS

Cat wants a mouse. Can you help him build a perfect mouse trap?

Materials: **Cat Traps** by Molly Coxe   DUPLO bricks

Hula hoops   3 DUPLO Base Plates   3 stuffed mice

Intro: Review rules and procedures for LEGO Engineering. Introduce the book "Cat Trap". Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration – i.e. " I wonder what Cat has that is stuck on his paw? Look at the mouse in the background. He's smiling and eating cheese. Why?" **Read aloud and** discuss the story.
Ask questions...
• What does Cat want? How does he go about getting it?
• What are some of the things that Cat traps?
• What are some of the traps that Cat makes? Do they work? Why or why not?
• Does Cat get a snack? How does he get it?

Challenge: Each group will be responsible for *building a workable trap that will trap a stuffed mouse.* How will they do this? How will they get a mouse into the trap? What will they do to make sure the mouse cannot get out of the trap?

Build: Divide students into three work groups. Have groups work together to build a trap that will entice a mouse in and then close upon

the mouse so it cannot get out. The trap must be a "kind trap" – a trap that will not hurt the mouse. It must also be large enough for the mouse to fit in.   Monitor each group by observation and asking pertinent questions*: "What will make the mouse WANT to get into that trap? How will the trap close on the mouse?* Allow students time to build.

Debrief: Gather the students back together and discuss problems they had and how they solved them. Ask *"What worked best?" "What didn't work?" "What did you wish you had more of?"*

Presentation: Visit each group's construction. The group presenting are the called the "Sitters" because they sit and describe what they've done. The teacher and the rest of the class are called the "Standers" because they stand around the presenters in a circle to observe and ask questions. The standers and the sitters change depending on the group presenting. Which groups were able to build a mousetrap for their mouse?