

The Construction Site

Zuri and Friends

Made for Tlaloc

With love from the Faust book maker

The Construction Site

Zuri and Friends

Made for Tlaloc

With love from the Faust book maker

Zuri, Teo and Juno were friends. Pip was their little blue owl. People were building the town's new playground. The machines rumbled beside the fence. Juno opened her sketchbook. “Let's draw the red slide going up!”



From a wooden viewing deck, Juno saw mud. “But where will the playground go?” She drew the giant muddy hole instead. “Is it slide time yet?”



Teo copied the crane's hook with his hand. “Will that hook dig?” “Okay… let's look closer,” Zuri said. “This crane lifts with its hook. The digger scoops up mud.”



Inside the digging machine's arm, oil enters a tube. The oil pushes a metal rod outward. The rod moves the arm and muddy scoop.



A truck's loaded box tipped. Dirt slid out with a shhhrrr! Zuri said, "The truck carries dirt away. Now there's room for our playground." Juno drew the tipping truck.

> **Did you know?** A dump truck's box tips up. Then the dirt slides out.



On their next visit, dirt rolled forward. Juno drew the bulldozer. Zuri said, “Its blade pushes dirt. That makes our playground flatter.” “Is it slide time yet?” Teo asked.



On another visit, a mixer poured concrete. Zuri said, “This wet mix turns hard. It makes the slide's strong base.” Teo traced its turning drum. “How does it come out?”



Inside the truck's drum, a curved blade turns. The blade stirs the wet concrete. Turning backward makes the blade push concrete out.



Many days later, Pip pointed at the base. Juno drew it. "Water helps concrete harden," Zuri said. "The slide's base is strong now." "Is it slide time yet?" Juno asked.



Juno tapped her drawing. Pip pointed at the crane. "We'll miss drawing it!" Juno cried. Zuri said, "Our base is ready. Now the crane lifts."



Juno drew the hovering slide. Zuri pointed. “The slide pulls down here. Heavy blocks pull down on the other side. They help stop the crane tipping.” Everyone held their breath.



On opening day, the slide was secure. Juno raised her finished drawing. "It's slide time!" Zuri cheered. Teo whooshed his arms like a slide. Pip slid past first!



For grown-ups

Oil pushed into strong tubes moves rods that lift a digger's arm. A mixer's curved blade stirs concrete. Turning the drum the other way moves concrete out, but turning cannot stop it from hardening. Concrete contains cement, water, sand and stones. Cement reacts with water and hardens, even underwater. Heavy blocks help balance a crane. Safe lifting also depends on the load's weight and how far it is from the tower. Machines can do several jobs.