The family that builds together has something they can use together! Try building things that you might want/need in your home.

- You can build book shelves on which to place existing books or books that you buy as part of your parent-teen book club.
- Building a TV/VCR stand can offer a useful and attractive place for your television if it currently is taking up counter space.
- A telephone stand that is custom built for your families' creative tastes could be a good addition. Make sure it matches the rest of the home decor.
- Night stands are always functional pieces of furniture that can be easily built.
- CD racks are a must for any teenager building a terrific music library.
- Painting rooms and doing murals can really make a new home your own.
- Putting up wall paper can give a new room the style you were hoping for.
- Adding a whole new room onto the house is a large project, but well worth the time and effort if you are all game to tackle the task.
- Make sure everyone gets a say in picking out colors, patterns, materials, and where to place things. This is a project built for two (or more) and each person’s contribution makes it better.

How will this activity promote the parent-teen relationship?

This is a way for parent and teen to learn a new skill or practice existing skills together and have a visible, useful product to admire.

This is a way for parent and teen to spend time talking about other life events as they are taking the time to create new and useful items for the whole family to enjoy.

This is a way for parents and teens to compare and contrast their tastes in color, design, and materials and can help parents and teens learn to compromise if differences occur.

Points to consider . . .

- If you live in rental housing, make sure to contact the housing office to find out what the regulations are using paint, murals, etc.
- Make sure that each of you is involved in every step of the way; from decision making, to preparation, to implementation.
- Make sure that each of you equally contributes regardless of skill levels at certain tasks. It doesn’t have to be perfect as long as you enjoy the process!