

Let's Make It!

Talk • Tools • Try

Children enjoy making things. When they're making, they're learning and having fun. When children have the time, tools and materials to make things, they learn to solve problems, be creative, communicate and much more!



Key messages:

- Making things is a fun way for children to learn.
- Making things with adults can help children learn.
- The process is more important than the product.

What is Making and how is it related to literacy?

Making is learning by doing. It is an active form of learning. Making is an opportunity to develop skills, including literacy skills, and gain knowledge. Being engaged in a project that is meaningful to a child sets the stage for effective learning.



“Guided play, in which adults help structure a play activity but allow children to take the lead and direct the session, is not only more fun for the child but also may be particularly effective for learning.”

— Weisberg & Zosh, 2018

What can children learn by Making?

A Language

- New words for tools, materials, properties, actions and reactions
- How to find information and follow instructions to solve problems
- To communicate by asking questions and sharing discoveries

B Math

- To count, add, subtract, multiply and divide
- To measure and estimate
- To notice patterns and sequences

C Thinking

- To use creativity and imagination
- To experiment - think, plan, try, revise, share
- To be confident in being able to do things

D Physical

- Muscle control and coordination
- The properties of physical materials
- That their ideas can be used to make things

Why do this as a family?

Children learn through play. Many play activities involve Making. Making with adults boosts learning. It's an opportunity for adults to see what their children can do. And, it's fun too!

For more playful family fun ideas, visit www.decoda.ca

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Tips for parents and caregivers

- Follow your child's lead.
- Learn together. You don't have to be an expert.
- Watch, listen, talk about what's happening and ask questions. Make suggestions when needed.
- Set aside enough time to enjoy making things. Making can take time.
- Use materials and tools that you have at home. It doesn't have to cost a lot.
- Show children how to use tools and materials safely.
- Focus on the effort more than the product. What you make doesn't have to be perfect.

Where can I get more ideas for Making with children?

For more ideas on things to make together, visit your public library or search online.

Here are some links to get you started:

- **7 Cornerstones of Making with Kids**
<https://makezine.com/2014/09/25/makerkids/>
- **At Home with Makerspaces**
<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/creating-makerspace-at-home>
- **Crafts for Kids**
<http://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-for-kids/>
- **Online Science Resources**
<https://www.scienceworld.ca/resources>
- **The Tinkering Studio**
<https://www.exploratorium.edu/tinkering/projects>
- **TinkerLab**
<https://tinkerlab.com/>

References

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