

Invent It

Point out different simple machines (e.g., pulley, ramp, wheel and axle, screws) or tools (e.g., flashlight, forks, magnifying glasses) that children might be familiar with. Talk simply about each component and how they help the tool work. Then, encourage children to design or build their own. Ask questions about what their machine does and why they chose to make it a certain way.

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Ask Open-Ended Questions

"You said you made a supersonic race car that can fly! I see you put a block on top of the car.

What does that part do?"

"Tell me more about your machine. What does it do? How does it work?"

"You invented a rainbow catcher! What made you decide to create that?"