

1. Design Your Own Toy Prototype

Theme: Engineering + Imagination

Objective: Teach basic design thinking and problem-solving through prototyping.

Materials: Recyclables (cardboard, plastic lids, straws), tape, scissors, markers.

How-to:

- Challenge your child to imagine a new toy that doesn't exist yet.
- Sketch the idea first, then build a rough prototype using available materials.
- Bonus: Have them "pitch" the toy to the family like a Shark Tank investor!

Skills: Creativity, design iteration, storytelling, presentation.

2. Create a Kitchen Science Lab

Theme: Chemistry + Observation

Objective: Make science tangible with hands-on experiments.

Materials: Baking soda, vinegar, food coloring, cups, and measuring spoons.

How-to:

- Set up a simple experiment: color-changing volcanoes, fizzy reactions, or invisible ink.
- Use a science journal to write predictions and results.
- Ask: *What would you change next time?*

Skills: Observation, critical thinking, scientific method.

3. Build a Paper Video Game Level

Theme: Game Design + Storytelling

Objective: Understand level design and interactive storytelling.

Materials: Graph paper or plain paper, pencils, colored pens, stickers (optional).

How-to:

- Draw a top-down layout of a new video game level.

- Add enemies, power-ups, challenges, and a storyline.
- Bonus: Act it out with toys or pitch the game to a sibling!

Skills: Systems thinking, design, storytelling, problem solving.

4. Invent a Marble Maze

Theme: Engineering + Physics

Objective: Explore motion, cause-effect, and spatial reasoning.

Materials: Cardboard box lid, straws, tape, scissors, marbles.

How-to:

- Cut and tape straws to form a maze inside the lid.
- Time how long it takes a marble to get through.
- Level up: Add jumps, tilts, and traps.

Skills: Engineering, planning, iteration, testing.

5. Put on a One-Minute Play

Theme: Performing Arts + Expression

Objective: Foster confidence and empathy through storytelling.

Materials: Costumes or props from around the house, a phone for filming.

How-to:

- Write a short story or skit (bonus: choose a theme like friendship or imagination).
- Choose roles, create simple costumes, or set pieces.
- Perform for family or record a short video.

Skills: Communication, creativity, collaboration, confidence.

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