



# 5 TIPS FOR HANDS-ON PLAY



Hands-on play includes a range of dynamic activities such as "making," tinkering, and building. Playing in these ways can help children develop problem solving skills like perspective-taking and learning from experience.

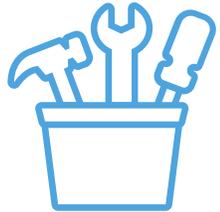
## 1. Set up a makerspace

Create an area where children can have free access to age-appropriate maker materials like paper, fabric, and recycled items - and it's ok to get a bit messy when inspiration strikes!



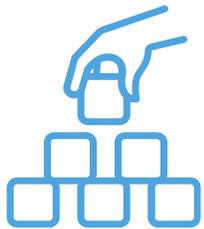
## 2. Create a tinker trunk

Save old, broken, and unwanted items and scrap materials in a "tinker trunk" instead of throwing them out (any old box or bin will do). Invite children to decorate it to make it their own.



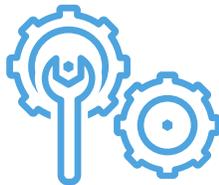
## 3. Build things together

Challenge children to build with unusual materials and on different scales to boost creativity. Think big like a forest shelter or small like a tiny "log" cabin made with clay and twigs.



## 4. Take things apart

Deconstruction helps children make connections between form and functionality. Take apart a broken toy or appliance together or cut up old jeans and t-shirts to create up-cycled clothing.



## 5. Design and imagine

Help children bridge the gap between dreaming and doing. Invite them to visualize their dream house, then draw it together with sidewalk chalk. Imagine a colony on mars, then make it with lego.

