

Start with a Book: Read. Talk. Explore.



DIY Science Camp: Be an Inventor!



Day 1



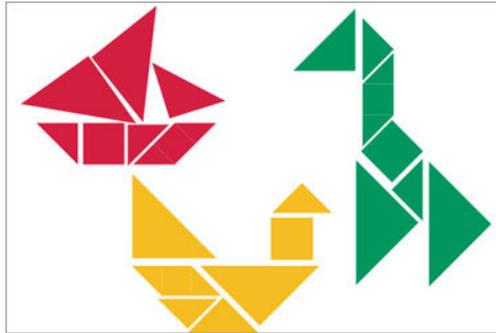
Marble Run

Create a speedy marble track from paper plates. With more than one run, you can have a race!

Books to read together:

- If I Built a Car
- Imaginative Inventions

Day 2



Tangrams

What can you envision and make from these 7 puzzle shapes — triangle, square, and parallelogram?

Books to read together:

- Clever-Lazy
- Toys! Amazing Stories Behind Some Great Inventions

Day 3



Geodesic Gumdrops

Build amazing structures with candy and toothpicks. Which ones are the strongest — and why?

Books to read together:

- Rosie Revere, Engineer
- Mr. Ferris and His Wheel



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Day 4



Random Robot

Design and build a rubber band-powered contraption designed to create abstract art!

Books to read together:

- Marveltown
- So You Want to Be an Inventor?

Write it!

- Robots at Work

Day 5



Soda Can Vibrating Bug

Make a vibrating “robot” bug that hums like an insect and walks around on its own.

Books to read together:

- Clink
- The Boy Who Invented TV:
The Story of Philo Farnsworth

Day 6



Cardboard Automata

Explore simple machine elements such as cams and levers, while creating a mechanical sculpture.

Books to read together:

- Papa’s Mechanical Fish
- Neo Leo

Write it!

- Invent Something!



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Find lots more activities + fiction & nonfiction booklists + cool apps and websites at www.startwithabook.org

Fiction Books

Clink by Kelly DiPucchio
Clever-Lazy by Joan Bodger
The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes by Mark Pett
If I Built a Car by Chris Van Dusen
Iggy Peck, Architect by Andrea Beaty
The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick
Marveltown by Bruce McCall
The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires
Papa's Mechanical Fish by Candace Fleming
Polo: The Runaway Book by Regis Faller
Regards to the Man in the Moon by Ezra Jack Keats
Roberto: The Insect Architect by Nina Laden
Rosie Revere, Engineer by Andrea Beaty
What Do You Do With an Idea? by Kobi Yamada

Nonfiction Books

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba
The Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth
by Kathleen Krull
How Ben Franklin Stole the Lightning by Rosalyn Schanzer
Imaginative Inventions by Charise Mericle Harper
The Kids' Invention Book by Arlene Erlbach
Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight Became an Inventor
by Emily Arnold McCully
Mr. Ferris and His Wheel by Kathryn Gibbs Davis
Neo Leo: The Ageless Ideas of Leonardo da Vinci by Gene Barretta
Robert Crowther's Pop-Up House of Inventions by Robert Crowther
So You Want to Be an Inventor? by Judith St. George
Toys! Amazing Stories Behind Some Great Inventions
by Don Wulffson

