

toddler studio:

Meet the Builder

Today we met the Carter's head of facilities! The head of facilities keeps the museum in tip-top shape, from fixing broken machinery to lighting the artwork just right. It's hard work keeping an art museum cool, clean, and safe for generations to come! Let's build an invention together, inspired by the Carter's problem-solvers.

GATHERING:

Let's start by assembling an "inventing box"! Grab a container and fill it with materials from around your home. You might include scrap paper, cardboard, bubble wrap, aluminum foil, wax paper, clean recyclables, pipe cleaners, plastic cutlery, shoelaces, string, twist ties, or large buttons. Make sure to keep an eye out for choking hazards during this Supervised play time!

INSPIRING:

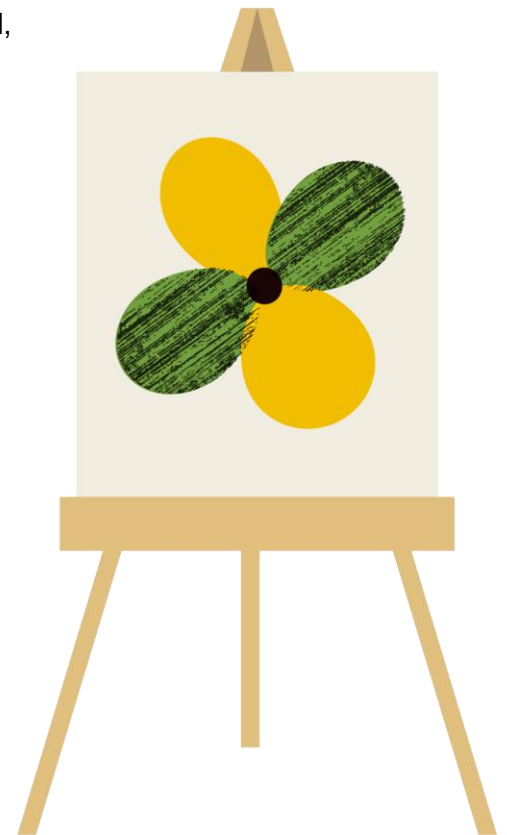
Every invention starts with a question to answer or a problem to solve! Whether you need a crayon-picker-upper or a telescope for finding your misplaced sock, discuss your ideas as a family before you start building.

BUILDING:

"Inventing boxes" are a fun challenge because they encourage children to solve unexpected problems with unfamiliar materials. Help your toddler practice important fine motor skills, such as threading, twisting, pulling, tearing, and folding materials. While you work, ask questions such as "Where should I put this piece?" or "What should we use to stick these together?"

HELPING:

Do the grown-ups in your family do woodworking or fix things around the house? Let your toddler contribute by retrieving tools, counting materials, sweeping up, digging in the garden, or other safe, age-appropriate contributions!



books

Boxitects by Kim Smith

The Fort by Laura
Perdew, illustrated by
Adeline Lirus

Jabari Tries by Gaia
Cornwall

*When Grandpa Gives
You a Toolbox* by Jaime
L. B. Deenihan,
illustrated by Lorraine
Rocha

*The Problem with
Problems* by Rachel
Rooney and Zehra Hicks

Construction People
poems selected by Lee
Bennett Hopkins,
illustrated by Ellen Shi