

Little learners get hands on, minds on at Tinkering for Tots, a program designed for curious preschoolers to develop an innovative mindset and make connections through storytelling, play, artifact exploration and a take-home STEAM activity kit.

What connections are we making?

Highlighted Habit



COLLABORATE

Description: Work together, work as a team. Everyone helps. Listen to everyone's ideas.

Story

Title: *Melia and Jo*

Author: Billy Aronson

Why we picked this book: When we work together, anything is possible. This wonderful story illustrates how our differences can complement each other and how we can accomplish so much more by working together.

Artifact Spotlight

Name: Eames Chair

Location: Fully Furnished

To learn more about the story behind this artifact, please see the artifact spotlight on Page 2.

Open Exploration

Description: Exploring with magnet walls

Skills your young learner is practicing: Pattern making, pattern recognition, collaborating, staying curious.

Questions to Ask Your Young Learner

What was Melia good at? What was Jo good at? How did Jo help Melia with her inventions? What kinds of things are you good at? What can you use help with? Who can help you?

Take-Home Activity

Title: Cardboard Tube Robot

Materials:

- Cardboard tube
- Pipe cleaners
- Pom poms
- Buttons
- Googly eyes
- Construction paper
- *Marker or pen not included*

Artifact Spotlight



Eames Lounge Chair and Ottoman: Charles and Ray Eames were a husband-and-wife design duo. Although Charles often received the lion's share of credit, Charles and Ray were truly equal partners and co-designers. Charles explained, "whatever I can do, she can do better..."

Charles and Ray established the Eames Office in 1943, an extremely collaborative office. Charles and Ray recognized when they needed people in other fields to help them solve design problems. They all worked together, understanding that everyone can bring something valuable to the table. This collaborative spirit allowed them to design across a multitude of fields.

They designed a collection of children's furniture. Each piece of furniture was sturdy and light enough for a child to move and rearrange while playing.



Their lounge chair was intended to appeal to the high-end market. A perfect marriage of innovative plywood molding and traditional plush leather upholstery, the Eames lounge chair is still somehow contemporary--despite its introduction over half a century ago.



Eames Lounge chairs are still produced today, with few changes. The molded rosewood shell and plush upholstery achieve Charles' goal to create the inviting look of a well-used baseball mitt.

Take-Home Activity

Cardboard Tube Robot Materials:

- Cardboard tube
- Aluminum foil
- Glue stick
- Pipe cleaners
- Pom poms
- Buttons
- Googly eyes
- Small white paper strip
- Construction paper
- *Marker or pen not included*

Directions:

- 1.** Wrap the cardboard tube in aluminum foil.
- 2.** Cut a square or rectangle piece to be the robot's belly.
- 3.** Glue pom poms and buttons to the belly piece.
- 4.** Attach 2 pipe cleaners to the roll for arms.
- 5.** Glue a pom pom to either side of your robot's head to be its ears.
- 6.** Use a marker or pen to draw a grid-like pattern on the small white paper strip. This is the robot's mouth, use glue to attach it to your robot's face.
- 7.** Glue a pom pom to the top of a pipe cleaner. Attach this to the robot, pom pom side sticking up, so your robot has an antenna.

Coloring Sheet

