

# Lesson ideas that integrate a makerspace

Note: If you use this lesson, please modify this lesson to meet the needs & abilities of your students.

**Subject:** ELA & Science & SEL

**Unit:** Text to Self Connections, Text to World Connections, Inventions, Perseverance

**Lesson Activities:** Read the story, *The Most Magnificent Thing*, and then students will create a Magnificent Thing of their own.

**First:** Read the story *The Most Magnificent Thing*. During the story, ask guiding questions to the students about what is going on in the story such as how is the character feeling? Did her activity work out the first time? What did she do next? What problem did she solve?

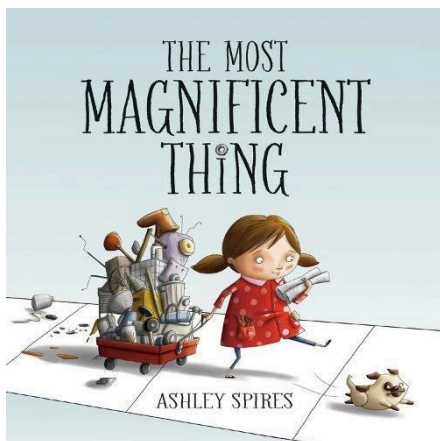
Afterwards have the students think of something they want to create. Some ideas might be a toy to play with, something to hold things in, etc.

**Introduce expectations & lesson goals:** Share with your students that they will be working in a special place in our classroom - a MakerSpace. Set the expectations for this space... In this space, the students can use the items found here to create anything they can imagine. Normally, they can work in groups. Note: I have my students work individually the 1<sup>st</sup> time but it's your preference. When they are in this space they can ask their friends for help, they can help their friends, they can get ideas from each other, they need to use their words to share, how to use the tools safely, etc.

Tell the students that today they will get to make 1 thing. It can be anything- whatever they can imagine and make.

**Time to make.** As students make walk around, provide guiding questions to help students as they work. "Look at what this student tried" etc

**Share** Students present to the class and then will get to share what they made - did it solve a problem? What purpose does the item have? What materials did you use & how did they help you in your creation?



## **Skills Fostered:**

- Collaboration
- Community Building
- Reading - text to world connections, text to self connections
- Teamwork & collaboration
- Multisensory
- Communication
- Social/Emotional Lessons - perseverance
- Science - Inventions

# Lesson ideas that integrate a makerspace

Note: If you use this lesson, please modify this lesson to meet the needs & abilities of your students.

**Subject:** Math

**Unit:** Sorting & Organizing

**Lesson Activities:** Collect items. Then, sort & organize them as a class.

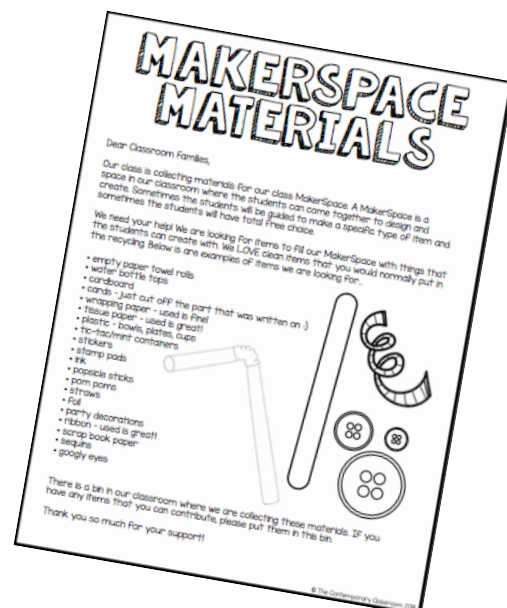
**Before Lesson:** Send home a "MakerSpace Materials Letter." Then, for a few weeks, have a bin for your classroom to collect MakerSpace items. These items can range to just about anything - empty paper towel rolls, plastic cups, paper plates, bowls, straws, popsicle sticks, cotton balls, pom pom balls, stickers, tissue paper, border decoration, scrap book paper, gift wrap paper, ribbon, sequins, googly eyes, used cards that have been cut to only have the decoration on the top of the card, etc.

**Lesson:** After collecting these items, pour them all out onto the floor in a pile. Have your students work together to create an organizing system for these items. How do they want to sort & organizing the items?



## Skills fostered:

- Community Building
- Sorting & Organizing
- Independence
- Teamwork & collaboration
- Taking ownership



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**Subject:** ELA & SEL & Science

**Unit:** Text to World Connections, Inventions, Perseverance

**Lesson Activities:** Showcase other ways that the tool/item of PAPER in a makerspace can be used. Read the stories, Mean Jean Recess Queen & Roberto The Insect Architect, then teach paper folding techniques & show how these techniques can be used to design. After teachers model, students will build their own paper playgrounds for their Mr. Fuzz to play on.

**First:** Read the story The Recess Queen and Roberto The Insect Architect; During Mean Jean Recess Queen...Talk about parts of a playground, how to be a good friend on the playground, etc. During Roberto The Insect Architect...talk about what it takes to design things, how architecture plays into science, the role of perseverance, etc.

Teach the students that when making things, paper is a great tool! It can be manipulated via folding in several ways to make new things. Then create the following poster board by folding the paper and then placing it on the poster board.

After, show the students how you can fold some of these pieces to make things. If you fold it in an accordion it can make stars. If you fold it to have small tabs up on either side, it will make the slide. If you roll the paper into a tube, it can become a tunnel.

Introduce Mr. Fuzz. Tell the students that they will each get a Mr. Fuzz and they need to design & build a playground for Mr. Fuzz to play on.

**Time to make:** As they work highlight the role of perseverance.

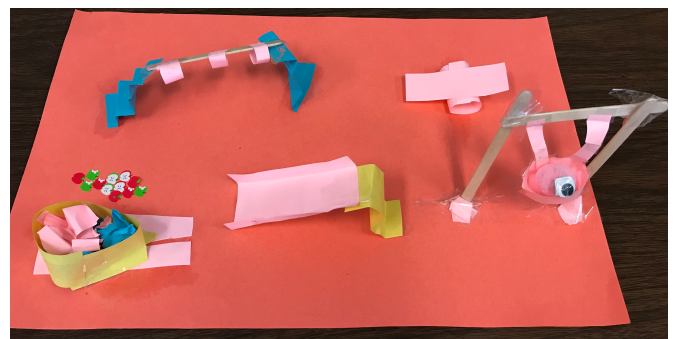
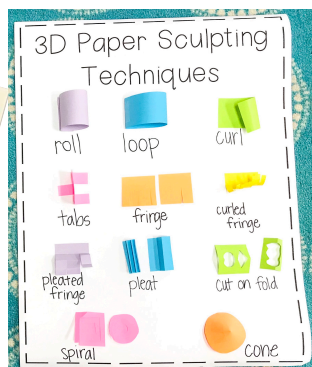
**Share** Gallery Walks. After students are finished, have the class do a gallery walk of the playgrounds. Meet at the carpet and have students discuss what they noticed, what they liked in other playgrounds.

**Time to Add:** Ask students to go look at their playground & add one more thing that they could make it better.

At the end, give students time to play with their playgrounds & Mr. Fuzz. It is your choice - if they want to play with a peers they can if they are careful & the peer says "okay."

## Skills Fostered:

Community Building, Reading - text to world connections; text to self connections, Teamwork & collaboration, Multisensory, Social/Emotional Lessons - perseverance, Science - Inventions



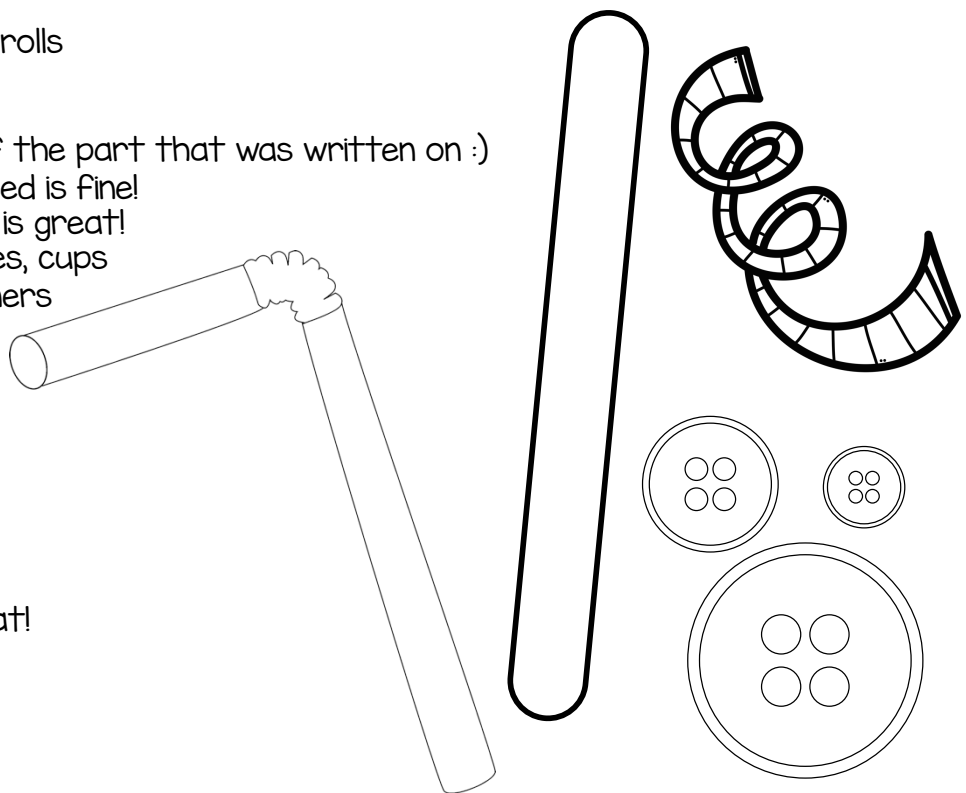
# MAKERSPACE MATERIALS

Dear Classroom Families,

Our class is collecting materials for our class MakerSpace. A MakerSpace is a space in our classroom where the students can come together to design and create. Sometimes the students will be guided to make a specific type of item and sometimes the students will have total free choice.

We need your help! We are looking for items to fill our MakerSpace with things that the students can create with. We LOVE clean items that you would normally put in the recycling. Below is are examples of items we are looking for...

- empty paper towel rolls
- water bottle tops
- cardboard
- cards - just cut off the part that was written on :)
- wrapping paper - used is fine!
- tissue paper - used is great!
- plastic - bowls, plates, cups
- tic-tac/mint containers
- stickers
- stamp pads
- ink
- popsicle sticks
- pom poms
- straws
- foil
- party decorations
- ribbon - used is great!
- scrap book paper
- sequins
- googly eyes



There is a bin in our classroom where we are collecting these materials. If you have any items that you can contribute, please put them in this bin.

Thank you so much for your support!



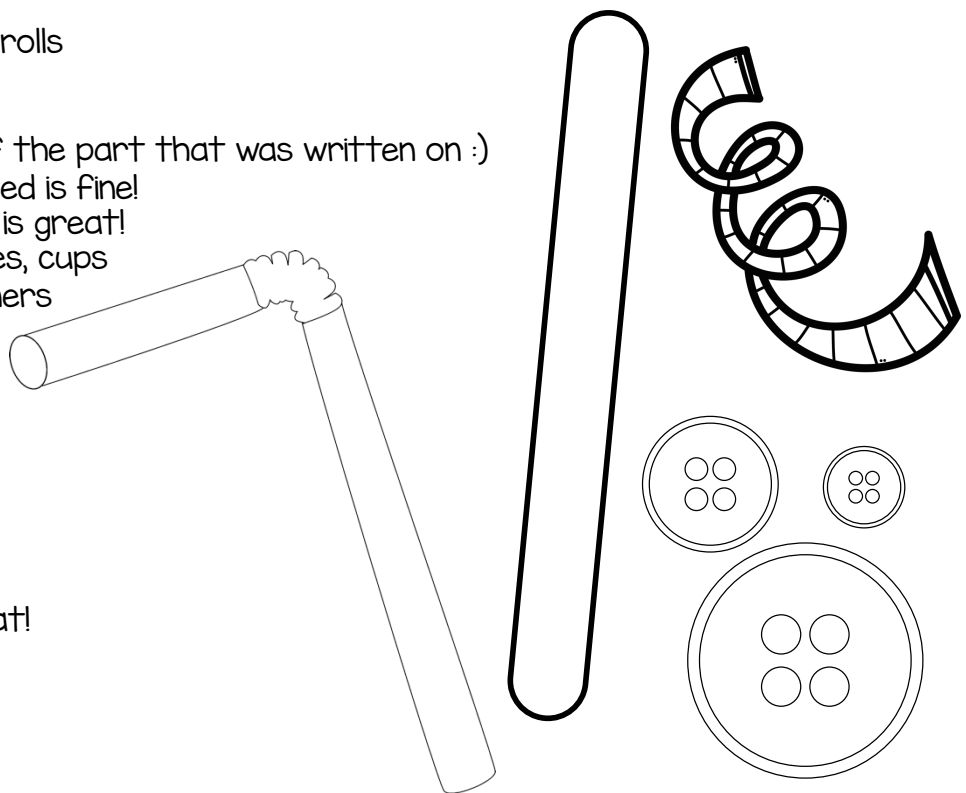
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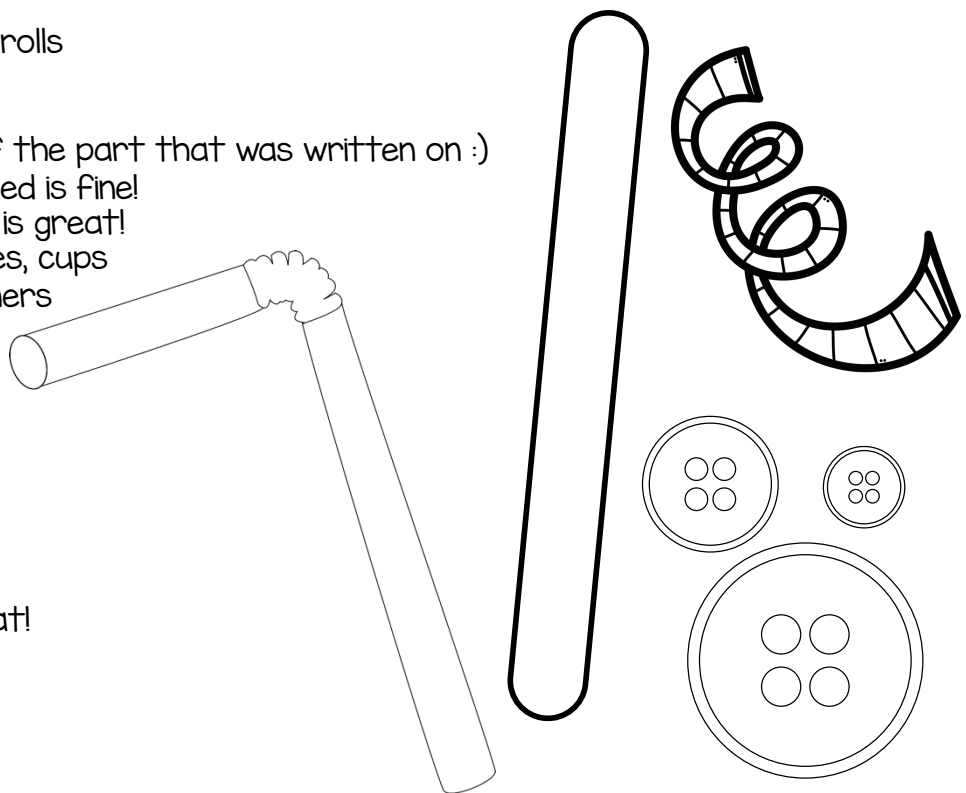
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