



Design a Tool

Objectives:

- Improve fine motor skills
- Provide an opportunity for creative expression
- Provide an opportunity for problem solving and critical thinking
- Allow time for independent play

Description:

- Tools help us do a specific job, pot holders help us carefully hold hot items, while knives help us cut and spoons help us scoop.
- If you could create a tool to help you do something, what would it be?
 - A broom to help clean your room and put away your toys?
 - A toothbrush that can brush your hair at the same time?
 - The possibilities are endless! But remember, this activity isn't about the product, its about the time for your child to be creative and think through their choices

Books

- If I Built a House by Chris Van Dusen
- Papa's Mechanical Fish by Candace Fleming
- Ish by Peter Reynolds





Design a Tool (Cont.)

Materials

- Images of tools: including kitchen tools
- Scrap materials: toilet paper tubes, cereal boxes, shoe boxes, newspaper, buttons, etc.
- Art materials: tape, glue, crayons, markers, paint

Directions

1. Lay out materials on a table
2. Talk to your child about tools
 - a. What are tools? What do they do?
 - b. What are tools that you use every day?
 - c. What do you wish you had a tool to help you with?
3. Ask your child to start designing their own tool by first drawing out their idea, then by making it
4. If you need to do work, tell your child you will do work for __ minutes while they do their work
 - a. "While you work on that, I need to do my work right next to you. We will work for 20 minutes, and then we can talk about what you've made. I can't wait to hear all about it!"
 - b. Set a timer to help them visualize the amount of time you will both work.
 - c. If they say they need help drawing something, for example, it is okay to say: "The timer is not done, so it's still time for you to try on your own. When the timer is done, I can help you."
5. When the timer is done, make sure you check in with your child. Ask them questions. If you said you would help them, then check in to see if they need help
 - a. Tell me about what you made
 - b. What made you think about that?
 - c. How did you make that?



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Careful Looking

Julia Child's Kitchen



https://amhistory.si.edu/juliachild/flash_home.asp

Guiding Questions

- What do you see?
- How does this picture make you feel?
- Does this look like your kitchen?
- Do you see any kitchen machines?
 - Remember machines help us do jobs like: moving things, baking, cooking etc.
- What colors do you see?
- What do you like about the picture?
- What title would you give this picture?
- What could be added?
- What shapes do you see?



Cheese Grater Art

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Description & Materials</i>	<i>Directions</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve fine motor skills by gripping the crayons and holding the cheese grater, pinching crayon shavings, or turning crayons in the crayon sharpener• Provide an opportunity for creative expression• Recall what happens when colors mix• Learn what happens to wax/crayons when heat is applied• Practice recycling materials – crayons that are broken or too short to color with• Practice using a kitchen tool	<p>Do you have any broken crayons lying around waiting to be used?</p> <p>Here's your chance! Create crayon shavings that can be melted into fun designs!</p> <p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cheese grater or Crayon sharpener• Broken/spare crayons• Wax paper• Iron or hair dryer• Child safe scissors• Tape or other paper weights• String (optional)• Wooden Dowel (optional)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Unwrap 4-6 crayons2. Use either a crayon sharpener or a cheese grater (carefully!)<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. This step can be done with or without your child depending on your comfort level3. Lay down a piece of wax paper and evenly sprinkle shavings onto the wax paper4. Place a slightly larger piece of wax paper overtop5. Seal the edges with tape6. Use a hairdryer to melt the shavings<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Let this cool for 15 minutes7. Cut shapes out of the wax paper8. Either tape shapes directly onto window OR tie a piece of string onto a wooden dowel, tape the raindrops to the string, and hang up9. Enjoy!