

Join us every week day at 10am AST for a new Make-At-Home activity & 1pm AST for an Outdoor activity for a Digital Learning skill while schools are closed.

WHAT IS DESIGN THINKING & HOW DOES IT HELP KIDS

We've all done it. Have you ever sat down to consider what takes priority for a day's work? Rarely do we consider the steps that lead us to beginning and finishing a task or project.

Design Thinking is the name, or methodology, given to the steps we use everyday to plan and solve problems. While adults use these problem solving skills professionally, most kids and youth are still in the formative stages of this skill development.

The process of Design Thinking was brought to the mainstream by IDEO and Stanford's d.school (founded by David Kelley). It helps people think creatively to solve problems and be more imaginative for designing almost anything! We know kids are imaginative, but this process helps funnel that imagination to create a more fluid and concise product or outcome. This helps them be more efficient and the quality of their work (or thinking) improves.

The best part is this method has life long effects. The younger the child, the better! This Design Thinking method is their "thinking-toolkit". Kids can use it to solve almost any problem and is a fundamental piece of the learn by making or maker-centric pedagogy which is the foundation of Brilliant Labs teachings.

BUILD A HOME COMPOSTER

DESIGN THINKING PROCESS GUIDING QUESTIONS

CALL TO MAKE Eating fruits and vegetables is very healthy for you, but are there nutrients in the parts that you don't eat? Do those pineapple cores and kiwi peels contain nutrients that would be good for our gardens? How could you ensure none of those good nutrients go to waste?

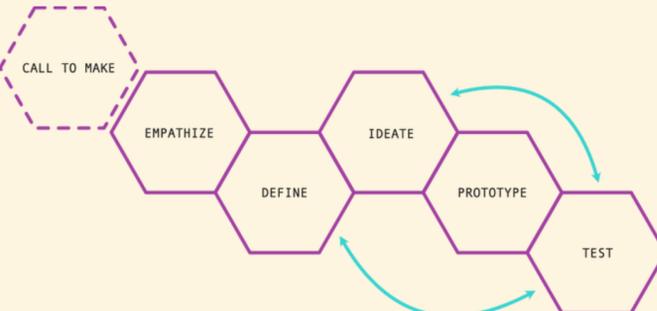
EMPATHIZE How can you make a small difference in the waste your household sends to the landfill? How can you reduce food waste through reuse and repurposing? How can you create better soil for planting your own food garden? And in so doing reduce the need for fertilizers.

DEFINE The composter will be open on one side for access, but enclosed on three sides to contain the soil and compost mixture. You will also need some sort of middle divider after your first year to separate our "fresh" compost from "aged" compost. (space, distance from kitchen, sun exposure, water and soil source, size)

IDEATE How can you use the physical features of your garden to your advantage? Can you use existing structures to help support your composter? What materials can you repurpose to make your side and back walls?

PROTOTYPE Try a small area first. Something like a 1 m x 1m area perhaps 0.5 m in height. Make sure you can expand on the space if needed. Take a look at these pictures for ideas.

TEST This is a longer term project so testing for some elements will be over a longer term. The reduction of household waste however can be measured weekly.



"Deep empathy for people makes our observations powerful sources of inspiration."
-David Kelley

