

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.

CREATE AN EGG CARTON CHARACTER

DESIGN THINKING PROCESS GUIDING QUESTIONS

CALL TO MAKE

Why are characters in stories important to us?

EMPATHIZE

What would I look like if I were made using an egg carton?

DEFINE

Who is my character and what would they look like?
Are they from this planet or another one ?

IDEATE

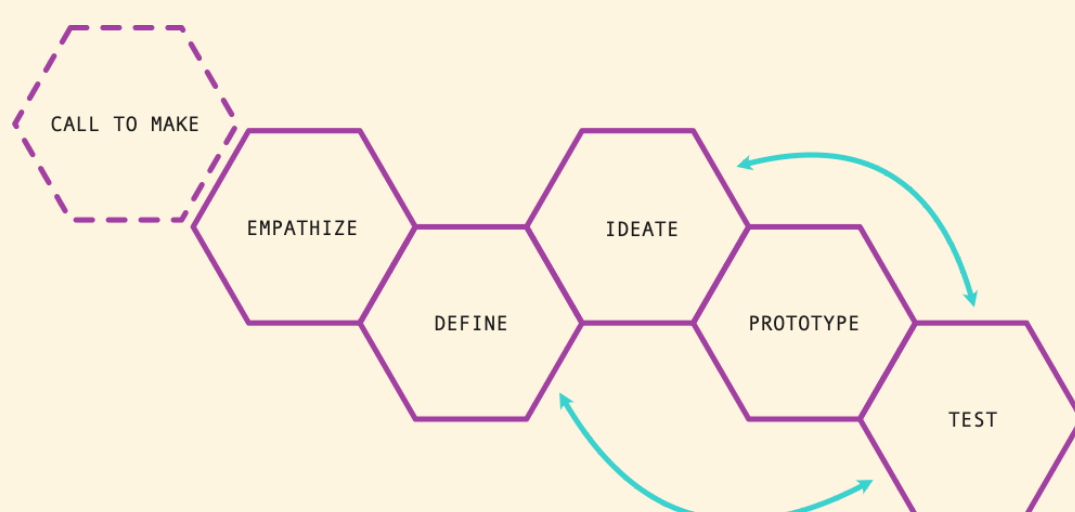
Would they be carrying anything?
What would they wear?
What do they like?
Where can you find ideas and inspiration?

PROTOTYPE

What can I use from around the house to express
who this character is?

TEST

Do you like it? If you were to do another one,
what would you do differently?



“Deep empathy for people
makes our observations
powerful sources of inspiration.”
–David Kelley

