

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.

UPCYCLE MAKERFUN

DESIGN THINKING PROCESS GUIDING QUESTIONS

CALL TO MAKE What if our jewelry could inspire a campaign of recycling awareness?

EMPATHIZE Do I, my friends, my family value recycled, reused or repurposed products? Is there a societal stigma placed on this activity? What is the influence of social media on an environmentally conscious campaign? Is this easily scaled? Do I have any friends who could offer a different artistic dimension to this campaign?

DEFINE Limit yourself to the choice of two materials from the recycling bin to be repurposed into a fashion accessory.

IDEATE How can your recyclable materials be used as traditional fabrication materials? Can it be used to resemble thread? Can it be woven? Does it take on a different property when exposed to elements? Can you incorporate materials not destined to be recycled to elevate the appreciation of your product? Your materials were destined to be recycled now, will they still be able to be recycled?

PROTOTYPE Trending fashion accessories require numerous design cycles through a series of prototypes. Be critical of your design choices. Sketch your ideas before making any changes to the material. Just because it is destined for the recycling bin doesn't mean it shouldn't be respected.

TEST Have fun with your results. Ask your family and friends what they think of your product. Does it create a sense of appeal and awareness?

