

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.

MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU!

DESIGN THINKING PROCESS GUIDING QUESTIONS

CALL TO MAKE

"Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi, you are my only hope!" Leia Organa

You are a young Jedi learning to harness the power of the force. Using your understanding of magnetism, can you make a droid move through an obstacle course?

EMPATHIZE

"Feel, don't think, use your instincts." Qui-gon Jinn

What do droids need to survive in the desert? How should they be constructed to avoid sand getting into their electronics? Droids are made for specific functions, what will yours do? In our day to day lives, why do we need to control objects at a distance?

DEFINE

"Well, if droids could think, there'd be none of us here, would there?" — Obi-Wan Kenobi

What do you know about magnetism? What do you need to learn about magnetism to harness the force? How will the droid sense, think and act? If the droid can process information and make decisions, it can think.

IDEATE

"That's not how the Force works!" - Han Solo

What materials will you need to create your obstacle course? or your droid? What forces did you have to take into consideration when building your droid? How will friction affect my droid's movements? What do you want it to do?

PROTOTYPE

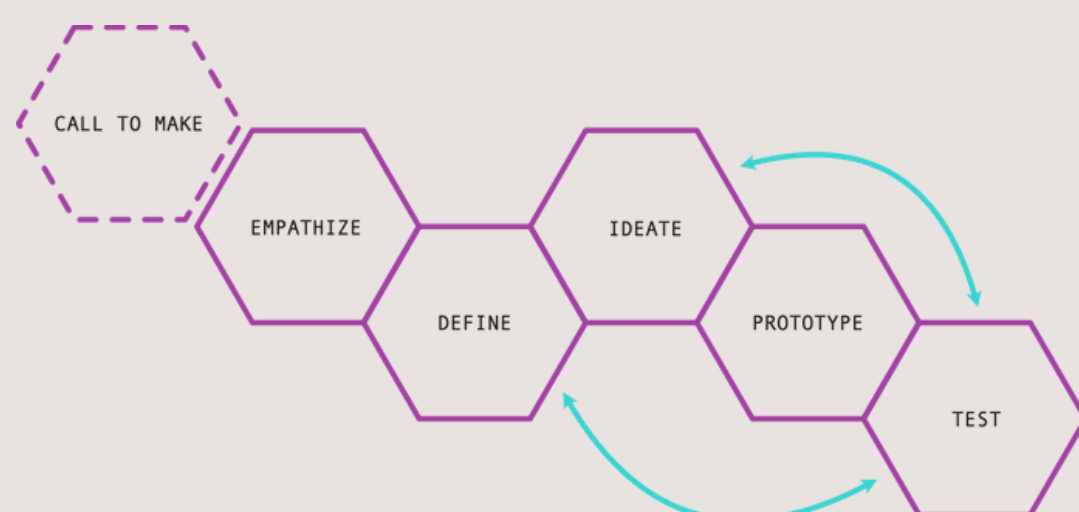
"Do. Or do not. There is no try." — Yoda

How can you make your droid levitate? How will you ensure your materials are holding together well?

TEST

"Sir, it's quite possible this asteroid is not entirely stable." — C-3PO

Did your droid move through the obstacle course as planned? Did your droid move as you thought it would? How could you make it move faster? Slower?



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