

## Appendix A: Letter to Families

Dear Families,

Your children are makers! They are using loose parts, found materials, and recyclables to imagine, play, make, and share amazing stories, ideas, thinking, and projects. They are learning through play. We are going to set up some makerspaces in our classroom. A makerspace is a place where children use developmentally appropriate open-ended materials, loose parts, and tools to imagine, play, make, and share their ideas, projects, stories, or thinking.

We would like your help in collecting materials for our makerspaces. All the materials you collect should fit into the attached paper bag. Please don't go out and buy anything. Instead, we would like bits and pieces that you already have at home. We hope you will look through your junk drawer, go on a nature walk in your neighborhood, or recycle items from a sewing kit or a toolbox. The goal is to repurpose items you may already have at home.

Please keep safety in mind! We cannot use sharp, toxic, or potentially harmful materials. These are some ideas of materials our children would love to use in their playing and making:

Nature	Wood	Paper / Cardboard	Plastic	Metal / Reflective	Textiles (Fabric)
acorns	clothespins	cardboard	acetate shapes	air ducts	beanbags
bark	corks	mailing tubes	bag clips	aluminum	blankets
clam shells	golf tees	envelopes	balloons	canning jar lids	burlap
coconut shells	matchsticks	magazines	beverage caps	aluminum foil	cotton balls
driftwood	palettes	manila folders	bingo chips	binder rings/ clips	doilies
feathers	wood chips	newspaper	buttons	bottle caps	embroidery thread/ string
flower petals	wood cookies	old cards	CD cases		fabric strips
flowers (seasonal)	wood craft sticks	paper egg cartons	cellophane		felt
helicopter pods	wood doll pins		coffee pods		flannel
			color paddles		lace
			curtain rings		

We can't wait to share, organize, and categorize the materials and use them in our makerspaces. I'll be sending lots of pictures! Thank you for your help.

## Appendix B: Learning Practices Documentation Form

How to Develop a Maker Mindset		
LEARNING PRACTICE(S)	WHAT STUDENT SAYS AND DOES Highlight behaviors that child demonstrated	DATE AND COMMENTS
Sense of Wonder		
Inquire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explores properties of materials using five senses</li> <li>• Asks questions</li> <li>• Approaches new materials with curiosity</li> </ul>	
Mindful Observation Social-Emotional Efficacy STREAM Innovations Enactment of a Growth Mindset		
Tinker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arranges and rearranges materials</li> <li>• Changes out one material for another</li> <li>• Tests and takes risks with uses of materials</li> <li>• Evaluates form and function</li> </ul>	
Hack and Repurpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses common materials in new ways</li> <li>• Uses new materials in ways other than those for which they were designed</li> <li>• Modifies or enhances materials for new purposes</li> </ul>	
Express Intent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selects a space to play and make</li> <li>• Expresses what they want to make</li> <li>• Expresses likes, dislikes, interests</li> <li>• Determines next steps in making</li> </ul>	
Develop Fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practices again and again</li> <li>• Gets faster and better at using a material, tool, or attachment</li> <li>• Develops proficiency in using a material, tool, or attachment</li> </ul>	
Simplify to Complexify	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses simple materials to make something new or complex</li> <li>• Uses simple steps to make something complex</li> <li>• Uses simple processes to develop complex systems</li> </ul>	
Share and Collaborate		
Seek and Share Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shares expertise with others</li> <li>• Uses stories, books, and illustrations as resources</li> <li>• Uses friends' projects and expertise as resources</li> <li>• Uses adults' expertise as resources</li> <li>• Uses signs as resources</li> <li>• Uses materials as resources</li> </ul>	

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<b>Student Name</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>