



The Bubbler is teaming up with Maker Corps to bring hands-on making to Madison Public Libraries this summer – follow along as we document our summer of making!

Wednesday, August 3, 2016

## Making & Learning with the Bubbler

At the Bubbler, we often get asked "what role does making have in the library?" Let's be truthful here... we get asked this by a lot of grown ups. For our youngest Bublberteers, "making" is enthusiastically embraced in the library without question. The library to them is already a magical place of exploration, learning, and fun thanks to their experiences with storytimes, play literacy games in the children's section, and arts based programming.



One Bublberteer with her movie watching pavilion. The popcorn (packing peanuts) are attached to the top so you don't have to even walk to the snack bar!



Bublberteer posing with his "Super Travel Camper"

In the same ways that storytimes and CRAFTernoons support early literacy in developing narrative and storytelling skills, fine motor skills, and imaginative thinking, maker based programs push small minds to grow. Especially the open ended activities designed by our [Maker Corps](#) team.

This week at Pinney, we explored creative problem solving and imaginative design (and had a TON of fun) with the Bubbler's Mystery Boxes. these little red tool boxes are filled with myriad of building supplies from purchased plastic wheels and cardboard saws, to all the extra stuff we found floating around the library like packing peanuts, drinking straws, shipping foam, and cable wrap tubing (great robot arm material!) We initially included prompts for ideas of what kiddos could create with their boxes, but quickly learned that inspiration usually comes directly from the materials themselves and what the kids imagine.

And doesn't take long for that imagination to spark! Our Makers at Pinney dove right in and after lots of scrunched eye brows and tongues thoughtfully hanging out of mouths, creating horse drawn carriages, high capacity mini vans, a travel camper, sail boats and more.

### The Bubbler @ Madison Public Library



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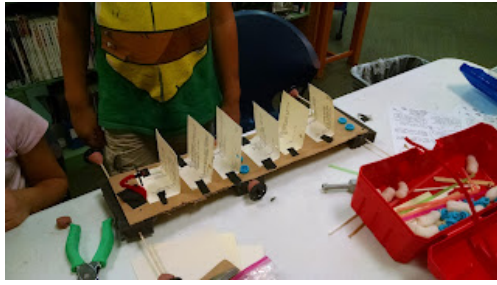
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The "Six Wheeler" is a great example of creative problem solving. Having enough room for all the seats, the middle of the car sagged so two more wheels were added. We also learned that having only 1 screw in the front connecting the wheels allowed them to swivel for actual steering!

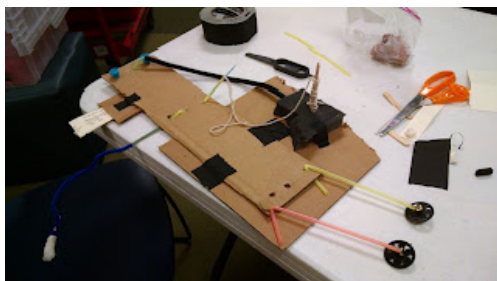
What we're noticing is that our Bublerteers are so excited about their projects, talking about them and creating stories comes naturally a lot of them, showing us awesome moments of reflection and discussion of design choices. But for some kiddos, this conversation needs a little nudge. So we're starting to get a little sneaky in Maker Corps...

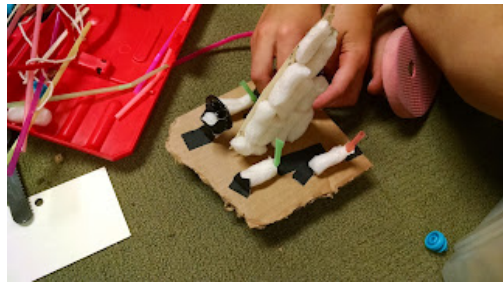
We're arming ourselves with some questions to push our Bublerteers to reflect on their creations and design choices. Not that our inventors would suspect we are encouraging "development of narrative skills" or "justifying choices in the making process" or other boring learning stuff when we're just asking:

- "What's your creation's name?"
- "What does it do?"
- "What makes your invention so awesome?"
- "What would you do to make it even awesomer?"

But the results are showing just how much their minds are working in this creative process. Those sneaky Bubblerarians!! Making me use my brain. Don't they know it's summer time! Here's one response to "What makes your invention so awesome?"

Top "The Sew Bot" with a library card memory chip and built in needle and thread. Middle: A "Unsinkable Sailboat" with flotation peanuts attached to the sail so it will float! Bottom: "The Falling Down Garage" that specializes in fixing things (but not itself...) notice the extra wheels and screws for repairs.





Posted by Unknown at [2:05 P.M.](#)

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