

Dear Parents,

We have been working on our Invention Convention projects. Your inventors are excited about what they have accomplished so far! At the heart of the Invention Convention program is collaboration. Your inventors might need your help in various stages of the invention process. Although the work should come from your inventor, there are a lot of ways parents can assist in our invention program!

Problem identification assistance

We have discussed that inventions should solve problems from the lives of our inventors or their communities. Inventors should be passionate about the problem they hope to solve.

We encourage you to communicate with your children throughout the invention process. Your children may begin to ask about the problems you face or problems you see around the world in the news. Please encourage your inventors to speak with family members and friends and record their learning in their Invention Log. This is a great way to start coming up with ideas for solutions (inventions).

Thinking of an idea for an invention is the absolute hardest part of the Invention Convention program. It requires collaboration, observation, and reflection. Thank you for helping your young inventors by being a sounding board for invention ideas.

Finding materials

Soon, your child will begin to build a prototype. Inventors should look around their house now for possible building materials. They can place items (glue, tape, paper towel rolls, boxes, paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, pvc pipes, Velcro, etc) in an invention box to gather it in one place.

Donating your time

You don't need to be an engineer to give great feedback to our inventors. Our inventors will need help exploring their ideas, making improvements to their initial models, building their prototypes, and getting user feedback. Please let me know if you or anyone you know would like to spend time in our classroom (whether in-person or virtually) and provide your expertise and feedback to these young inventors.

Your young inventor is a part of the invention education movement and we cannot wait to see everyone's hard work. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kerry Macfarland, CIC Program Manager
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