



# WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY CHILD?

## **LEARN ABOUT THE DESIGN PROCESS TOGETHER**

Design is a completely new topic for the students this year so the more they can discuss things at home the more comfortable they will be during their projects. Try looking over the design process summary together and finding real world examples of it. You could look at early prototypes of the iPad, examine the features of a product you both love or read about design solutions in the news. Each time you review a product or solution discuss the steps it took to get to that final solution.

## **DISCUSS CHALLENGES THAT OTHERS FACE**

Along with mastering the design process students will also be developing empathy through their design projects. The projects will usually be centered around the needs of others. This could mean anything from helping children in low income areas get access to healthy food or creating organizational tools for their teacher. We will spend a good amount of time learning to listen to others and observe their behavior so challenges can be discovered. Taking time with your child to discuss the challenges of others and what it might feel like to have them could give your child a head start.

## **SHARE AND DISSECT MISTAKES**

One of the first adjustments that children must make when participating in Design Thinking is their attitude towards mistakes. In order to get to a great idea off the ground teams must make mistakes early and often. They learn something new with every mistake and ultimately their design becomes more effective. At home it can be helpful for the children to hear that it's ok to make mistakes and that they can actually be a good thing. The less upset a child gets about a mistake the faster he or she can move forward with their team. If your child mentions a mistake he or she made in Design Lab try asking them for specifics. If your child can explain what wasn't working then he or she will be better prepared to face challenges with their team.