The Most Magnificent Thing

What happens when making the most magnificent thing ends up being more difficult than you thought?

Topics: engineering, construction, perseverance, growth mindset

Math Connections: Use The Most Magnificent Thing to help your child understand that their ability to create, problem solve, and understand new information is supported by their effort, attitude, and approach toward learning. They may not know something yet, but they will if they keep trying! Ask your child what they can do now that they couldn’t do when they were younger. Ask how they learned these new things.

It is important for young children to understand that mathematicians often spend a great deal of time working on solutions to problems. Mathematicians don’t expect to come up with answers quickly. They expect to try many different approaches, come up with new ways of looking at mathematical situations, explore lots of options, make mistakes, learn from their mistakes, and keep trying until they come up with a solution that works. Everybody has the ability to be a mathematician with persistence, effort, and a willingness to try new ideas.

Extension Questions:

1. What did the girl do that made you think she would succeed in building the most magnificent thing?
2. When things went wrong, what did the girl do?
3. Can you think of a time when something you were doing didn’t work out the way you wanted it to? What did you do?
4. How do you think mistakes can be helpful?

Vocabulary for Building Math Concepts

big, heavier, long, measures, pair, ratio, round, shapes, sort, small, square

Vocabulary for Extending Math Concepts

grit, growth mindset, measurement, persistence, ratios, weight

Vocabulary for Reading Comprehension

adjusts, admire, alerts, antennae, assistant, distractions, examine, finest, magnificent, pounces, pummels, relax, supplies, tinkers
Early Math Project Resources:

A Most Magnificent Dog Directions (English)
El perro más maravilloso (Spanish)
Create a Car (English and Spanish)

Online Resources:
Extension Activities for Educators:
STEAM themed, project based lessons for whole, small or independent learning groups.

Guide for Parents and Families
Reading and related activity ideas.

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<th>Age Level</th>
<th>Related Preschool Foundations and CA State Standards</th>
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<td>Infant/ Toddler</td>
<td>Problem Solving. The developing ability to engage in a powerful effort to reach a goal or figure out how something works.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preschool/ TK</td>
<td>Mathematical Reasoning 1.0 Children use mathematical thinking to solve problems that arise in their everyday environment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Standards for Mathematical Practice: 1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.</td>
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