

Awesome Apparatus

This is an activity for one or more people.

Goal: To invent a tool.

You will need:

- Paper and pencil
- Materials to build a tool (for example: recycled plastic bottles, cardboard tubes, duct tape, wire, magnets, coat hangars, etc.)
- Your imagination

What to do:

- Tools help simplify our work. In the book, *Too-Small Tyson*, Tyson uses plastic tubes to reach his gerbil Swish. Think of something that you have to do that would be easier with the right tool. For example, a tool to help reach an object, clean up, or call people to the dinner table.
- Make a plan to build the tool. Draw the tool you will create and make a list of the materials you will need.
- Build the tool.
- Test the tool. If it doesn't work the way that you hoped, make adjustments to your design until the tool works as you imagined.

Other things to try:

- Ask a relative or friend about challenges they have with jobs they need to do. For example, your aunt might tell you she needs help finding and picking up screws that fall on the floor and under cabinets in her workshop or your brother might tell you he has trouble reaching objects stored under his bed. Think of, design, and create a tool that will make their tasks easier.

