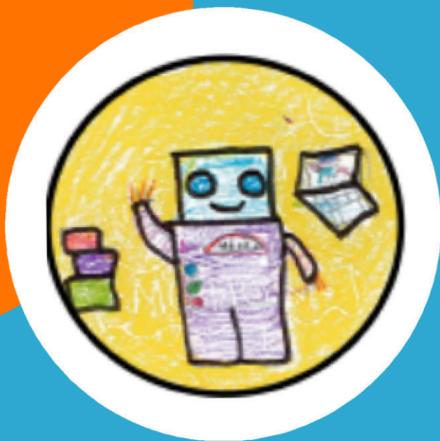Soaring to success

Design & Technology How can Parents Help?

Get your child designing
Ask them to draw or sketch an exciting, new product and label it. Ask: What is it? What is it for? Who is it for? Why have you designed it? What materials will you use to make it? What equipment will you need to make it? How will you make it?

Expose your child to as many different materials as possible
Question them about the materials around you (binca, cardboard, corduroy, cotton, elastic, felt, faux fur, glass, hessian, leather, metal, net, plastic, satin, velvet, waterproof fabrics, wool, wood). Ask: What is this material called? How would you describe it? What could it be used for? How strong is it? Is it flexible? Is it waterproof? As well as this, expose your child to a wide variety of ingredients, get them tasting and helping you with the cooking (especially with the washing up).

Encourage your child to make things
Junk modelling is considered favorably amongst parents as it keeps the cost down and utilises recyclable materials available around the house. Could your child make a house? Castle? Bridge? Robot? Construction kits like Lego, K'Nex and Meccano are also fantastic to freely explore, or your child could construct an equally-marvellous creation by following their step-by-step instructions. You could also participate in some sewing with your child, perhaps fix a button back onto a shirt or stitch a hole up?

Spark your child's curiosity about products in the world
Every man-made product in the world has derived from a Design and Technology process. Get them to research everyday products, from the basic, to the weird and wonderful. Ask: How was it made? How might that work? Why? The Discovery channel is excellent for this and there are various "How does it work?" clips on YouTube to watch and enjoy, in awe.

Design and Technology websites to help

https://www.theschoolrun.com/other-subjects/design-and-technology
https://www.theschoolrun.com/cooking-and-nutrition-in-primary-schools

EYFS: https://www.theschoolrun.com/foundation-stage-design-and-technology-explained

KS1: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zb9d7ty
https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ks1-design-and-technology/zfycmfr

KS2: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zyr9wmn
https://www.stem.org.uk/home-learning/primary#D&T