

Run a Little Inventors after-school club!



Why use Little Inventors as an after school club

Our resources are curriculum-linked and great to use in the classroom to support Science, Literacy, art and more, but they can also be used to run a longer invention club in your school. This is a great way to encourage and stretch children's creativity and problem-solving skills and an insight in the whole process of bringing an idea to life from concept to exhibition.

Our resources are perfect to run a full meaningful project exploring topics through the lens of invention from developing ideas to creating a wonderful display for your school, something to take pride in!

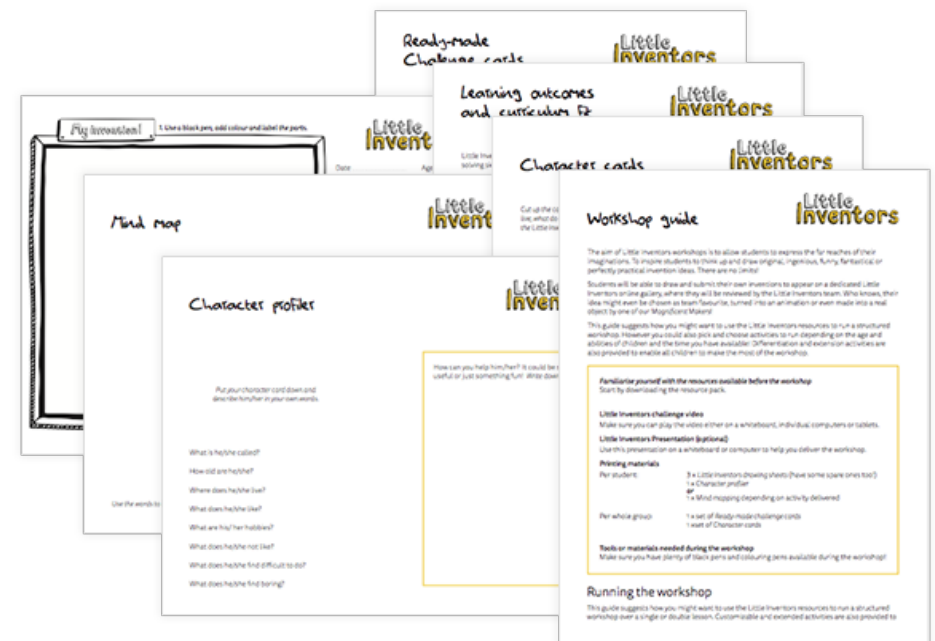
Little Inventors is also a partner of Artsmark and this activity can be recorded towards your quality mark.

Getting started

You can use any of the resources available on our website however you wish, but here is a guide on how you would run a club with great outcomes for the group and the school.

We have three inventor's logs you can use to progress through:

- Developing your idea
- Prototyping your idea
- Curating your exhibition



Choose a theme!

Using invention is a great way to explore any themes, as it's a lot about being curious. Here are some of our free resources available now you can use... and we add more all the time.



The **Open Challenge** lets children use their imagination to invent something inspired by things around them and is great to support citizenship, literacy and arts.



The **Victorian Inventions Challenge** looks at the spirit of invention in this crucial historical context and can help support a topic on this era.



The **Pioneers Energy Challenge** encourages children to think of the science of energy to generate energy, save energy or use energy better.



The **Food Waste Challenge** is for our eco-warriors who want to start making a difference at home!

Find them all at littleinventors.org/resources

For quick bursts of inspiration, you can also use some of our 100 **mini-challenges** to do inventing on the spot!

See them all at littleinventors.org/mini-challenges/

We also have three books you can use for more ideas:

- Little Inventors Handbook
- Little Inventors Go Green
- Little Inventors in Space

Find them all at littleinventors.org/books

We also have loads of videos on our YouTube video channel!

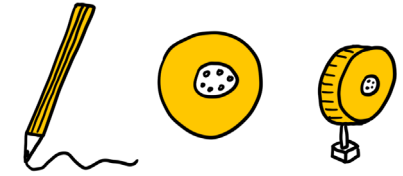
<https://www.youtube.com/littleinventors>



Session 1

Setting up

Explain that you are going to run a whole project with the group, where they will think up their own inventions, make models and turn them into an exhibition for all to see!



Introduce Little Inventors by watching the [open challenge video](#).

Have a look at some of the **inventions made real** on the Little Inventors website, get the children to choose their favourite and ask them what it makes them think of, and what might have inspired the ideas.

Choose a **mini-challenge** and get the ideas flowing!

Session 2

Get started

Give each child the first **Inventor's log, Developing your idea**, and explain they can record all of their ideas here (we recommend that you keep the logs at school so they don't get lost!).

Go through the **presentation** of your choice and use the **Character Profiler** to get children thinking about a character or person they want to invent for.

Ask them to keep thinking about this person and what they might need or like and to start thinking about their invention!

Session 3 & 4

Your invention

Get children to review their character profile and ask them if they have had more ideas to add. Then give them an **Invention sheet** and get them inventing!

They should try and spend some time to develop their design, add colour and information about how it works.

Continue to develop their idea in their inventor's log, at their pace.

Session 5 & 6 & 7

Get making!

Give the children the **Prototyping Inventor's log** and start working through it and start building their own version of their invention using recycled materials.

- Get them to draw their ideas in 3D
- Have a go at prototyping the snack shoe
- Watch the prototyping videos with Magnificent Maker Lottie Smith
- Create a poster for their idea

Session 8 & 9

Plan your exhibition

Use the **Curating your exhibition Inventor's log** to plan your exhibition!

- Draw a plan and think of your layout and display
- Find or make props
- Create signs, posters invitations

Session 10

Grand opening!

Time to share all this brilliant inventing work with the rest of the school!

