



Film This! (tips and tricks)

Stories can have different meanings or emphasis depending on how they're filmed. To make something look giant, film the object from underneath. To have a birds-eye-view, film straight down from above. Film from a side angle and show height and distance to make things look close together or far apart. Want to make it look like the night? Use a partially darkened room and have a flashlight only to show light. Close ups happen when the camera is really close to an object. Don't get so close it is blurry. Some camera and phones have a setting to show a face very closely. Using your video, create a story that can be built out of bricks and other materials. Film your story in different ways to see how it changes the way your story comes to life.

Backdrops

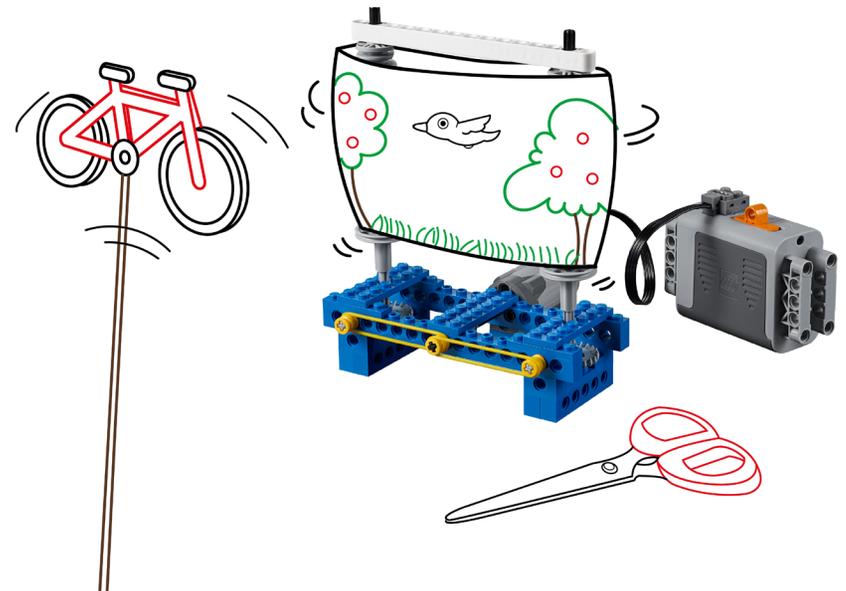
Have your child think about the time and the place of various stories. Then have them create a backdrop that clearly shows the setting for a scene from the story. Place the backdrop behind the words of the story or behind the characters if they are acting it out. How does the backdrop add to the story scene you created? Have them investigate what happens to the scene if the backdrop is changed to a different image.

Picture Perfect

Challenge your child to take 5 unrelated pictures and make a story that connects all 5. Perhaps the story will be a journey, a mystery, or a tall tale. Have your child tell or write the story then build a scene from the story using bricks and other materials. What will happen in the story? How does your child interpret the images and connect them?

Newspaper

Challenge your child to create a newspaper. What news is front page worthy? Good news hopefully. What other news will be included sports, weather, columns, helpful hints, advertisements, poetry, book and movie recommendations? Have your child interview people to include in the paper. Then have your child try to build something with bricks and other materials to photo for the stories to make the newspaper shine.



Crazy Sea Adventure

Have your child pretend to be on a boat ride with a close friend. However, the boat ride turns out to be anything but short and fun. Instead, the pair are stuck with a crazy captain that cannot seem to find the way home. Have your child create a story using bricks and other materials to tell the story of what happens with the crazy captain and eventually how the boat arrives safely back at the dock.



Wanted Posters

Have your child create some wanted posters. Place a large picture of whatever or whoever is wanted in the middle of the poster. Then add why that person or thing is wanted. Is there a reward offered? Where should someone who has information report it? Have your child try to create a scene that explains the whole story through building something with bricks and other materials.

Nonfiction Fun

Read about a volcano, earthquake, tsunami, flood, snowstorm, etc. with your child. Then, have your child write a newspaper article telling the main facts. Your child can make up interviews with local people and experts to add some excitement. Encourage your child to give safety tips including what supplies are needed before the event occurs and who can help after the event. Have your child build a scene using bricks and other materials that shows the event (volcano, earthquake, etc.) as an example to including in the article.

Olympic Medals

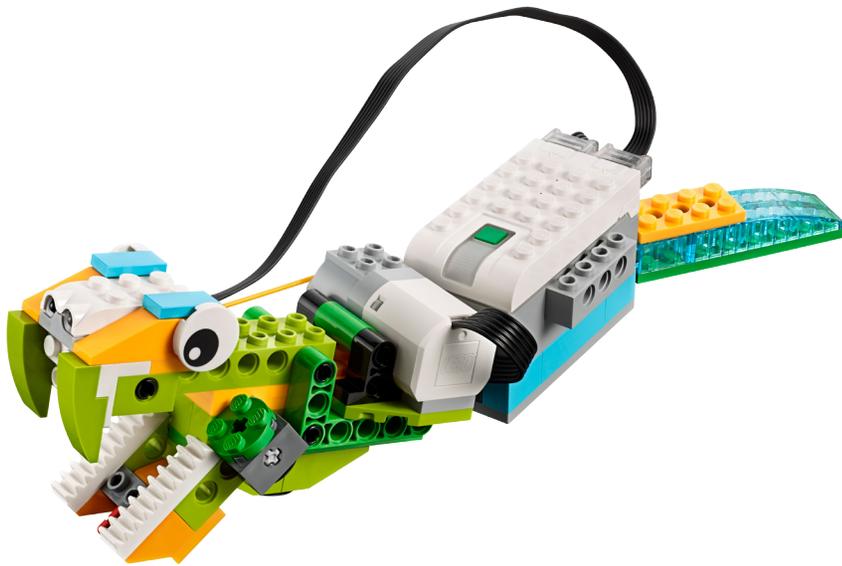
Pretend your child is now on the Olympic team! Have your child choose a sport to compete in and the location for the Olympics. Have your child act as the announcer to provide a play-by-play commentary on the event. Use bricks and other materials to create a storyboard and scenes from the event to capture the moment.

My Crazy Camping Trip

You have just come back from a crazy camping trip. You have lots of funny pictures on your cell phone and can't wait to tell all your friends what happened. Have your child find or draw pictures that you would have on your cell phone. Then, write a story. Make sure it has great descriptions and tell it in an order that makes sense. They might find words like "First, we..." "next we..." "then" helpful in organizing your story. Don't forget to exaggerate things and use similes and metaphors where it makes sense. For example, the boat was a whale, the tent was smaller than a snail shell, the campfire was so big that..., and so forth.

Circus Acts

Have your child pretend to have just come back from the circus and decided they can do a better job. What acts would they do? What tricks do they know? What props do they have around the house? Practice tricks, find the props, and get ready for the show. Have them write the words the announcer would say. They may want to start with "Ladies and gentlemen, the show today will be the greatest you have ever seen!" Then, call together your family and let the show begin!



Did you run into any snakes or other creepy creatures on your crazy camping trip??