

# Imagine the Fun

AT YOUR LIBRARY

## Makerspaces or “Meet and Makes”

Makerspaces, hacklabs, or fablabs are places where people gather to create, learn, or invent something. Many libraries are using their public spaces to inspire patrons to share their knowledge and share their tools. Together, participants can learn something new by trying it out, DIY style. Libraries have always been community centers for people to gather and learn, but today’s information-sharing ethos is stretching our imagination when we think of the role of the public library. Makerspaces represent the general movement from consumers to creators, from observation to engagement.

### For more, visit:

- Idaho Commission for Libraries:  
<http://libraries.idaho.gov/make-it-idaho>  
<https://www.facebook.com/MakeItIdaho>
- Open Education Database:  
<http://oedb.org/ilibrarian/a-librarians-guide-to-makerspaces/>

### Ideas for Family Reading Week Makerspaces:

**IMAGINE WHAT’S INSIDE:** Families and patrons of all ages will love discovering what’s inside common tech items. Dig through the library’s back closet or visit a thrift store to buy inexpensive watches, cell phones, speakers, printers, monitors or old laptops (ask for broken items for free for kids educational purposes). Provide the tools and space for taking these items apart and discovering what’s inside. Pair this activity with the book, *Cool Stuff Exploded: Get inside modern Technology*, by Chris Woodford (DK Limited, 2008). Display similar library books for checkout, such as Stephen Biesty’s *Incredible Cross-Sections* (DK Limited, 1992) or David Macaulay’s *The Way Things Work* (DK Limited, 1988) and *The New The Way Things Work* (1998).



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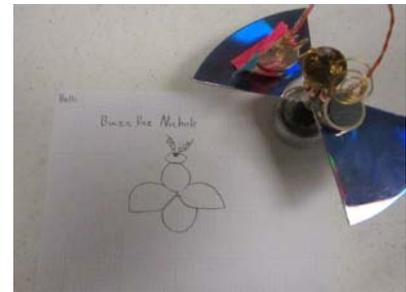
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**IMAGINE ORIGAMI:** Create a display of your library's origami books and recruit volunteers who can help families at an origami fablab. Provide plenty of colorful origami paper and table space for folding. Get more complex with older audience and create lumigami (origami creations illuminated by LED lights). Pair this activity with the *Origami Yoda* books, by Tom Angleberger or one of the following storybooks as a read-aloud: *Lissy's Friends*, by Grace Lin; *Butterflies for Kiri*, by Cathryn Falwell; *Yoko's Paper Cranes*, by Rosemary Wells; *Origami Master*, by Nathaniel Lachenmeyer.



**IMAGINE FUNKY JUNK:** "Upcycling" is defined as creating treasures out of trash. Makers of all ages enjoy creating something new from little odds and ends. Collect leftover nuts, bolts, screws, hooks, keys, wires, etc. Provide tools such as wire cutters, small hammers, screwdrivers and pliers. Add in some colorful electrical tape, provide a safe working surface and let the imagination flow! Best projects will be able to be completed in one sitting and will appeal to both girls and boys. Pair this activity with: *Funky Junk: Cool Stuff to Make with Hardware*, by Renee Schwarz; *Cool Odds and Ends Projects: Creative Ways to Upcycle Your Trash into Treasure*, by Pam Scheunemann; or *Odds 'n' Ends Art*, by Gillian Souter. Could also be paired with *Lights Out*, by Arthur Geisert as a read-aloud.



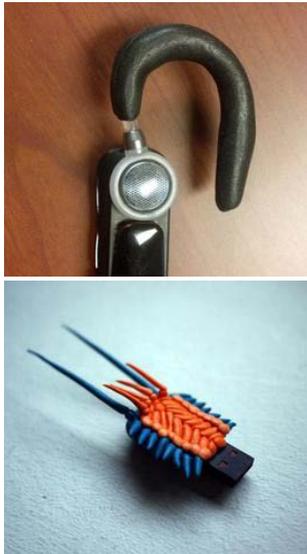
**RE-IMAGINE THE BOOK:** Perfect fun for libraries with extra donated sets of encyclopedias or other books that are outdated, this activity inspires families to make something new out of an old discarded book. Provide sturdy workspace and tools. (Sharp scissors, paper cutters and Xacto knives might not be appropriate for younger audiences.) A favorite is the "Kindle Keeper" project, which is an easy way to create a cover for your Kindle out of a used book cover: <http://booksprung.com/how-to-make-a-kindle-case-from-an-old-book>. Or, use the following books for inspiration: *Playing with Books: The Art of Upcycling, Deconstructing, and Reimagining the Book*, by Jason Thompson; *The Repurposed Library: 33 Craft Projects that Give Old Books New Life*, by Lisa Occhipinti; or *Book Art: Creative Ideas to Transform Your Books, Decorations Stationary, Display Scenes, and More*, by Clare Youngs.



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**IMAGINE SUGRU:** Use this product to adapt, modify and improve existing items.



Example: bouncy bumpers to protect iphones or other gadgets: <http://sugru.com/us/guides/how-to-make-bouncy-sugru-bumpers-for-your-iphone-5>. You can use Sugru to mount cameras to your bike handlebars or to the top of your ski helmet. Make comfort grips for tools like hatchets or hammers. Add comfort to your angling rod or add protection to the edge of your skateboard. Sugru is not cheap, but the possibilities are only limited to your imagination and Sugru lends itself perfectly to the makerspace concept. Learn more and find the product at [www.sugru.com](http://www.sugru.com). Accompany this makerspace with DIY books on display from your collection.

(A Bluetooth repair at top, a customized USB at bottom.)

**IMAGINE, SEW, AND MORE:** Most communities have active members who love sewing. Ask volunteers to bring in their sewing machines and guide children through the basics to create a simple project or simply learn to experiment with different stitches and fabrics. Spoonful.com links to an easy bookmark sewing tutorial: <http://spoonful.com/crafts/12-easy-sewing-projects-for-kids#carousel-id=photo-carousel&carousel-item=8>. Display your library's wonderful nonfiction books on sewing projects for all ages, young and old, as well as nonfiction about America's seamstress star, Betsy Ross. A new series for grades 4-7 is the *Sew Zoey*, books by Chloe Taylor (Simon Spotlight, 2013). Read-alouds include *Charlie Needs a Cloak*, by Tomie DePaola; *Joseph Had a Little, Overcoat*, by Sims Tabak, and *I Had a Favorite Dress*, by Boni Ashburn.



**FABRIC ARTS...**All fabric arts are great additions to Makerspaces and programs. Ada Community Library's "Meet the Sheep" program introduced makers to each stage of wool production. Participants participated in shearing, washing, dyeing, and carding the wool. They then used the finished product to create yarn bowls and other items.



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Yarn bombing is also a popular activity! Check out some fun ideas at:

- <https://www.facebook.com/yarn.bombing.at.your.library>
- <http://theidaholibrarian.wordpress.com/2012/05/09/getting-bombed-in-boise-yarn-bombing-and-libraries/>



**IMAGINE A BUILDING CHALLENGE:** Kids of all ages love to build with blocks and LEGO's! Challenge teams to build the tallest tower or the strongest bridge. Don't have enough building materials? Search thrift shops and kid's consignment stores for bins of LEGO's or other building materials. Ask families to bring in their own materials to share or donate.



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