

Design a Routine Robot Helper

At this age, children are developing more complex thinking and problem-solving skills. This activity encourages independence, introduces basic engineering skills and invites creative expression in a meaningful context. Plus, it's a fun and imaginative way to turn routine-based tasks into something exciting and empowering.

What you need:

- Recyclables (toilet paper rolls, cardboard, string, bottle caps, paper towel tubes, etc.)
- Tape, glue, child-safe scissors
- Markers, stickers, crayons and other materials for decorating (ribbon, pipe-cleaners, etc.)
- Optional: labels or photos of daily tasks (e.g., brushing teeth, putting on shoes, etc.)



What to do:

1. Tell the children they are going to become “inventors” and create a robot that helps them complete one of their daily tasks as part of their routines.
2. Start with simple questions to get the ideas flowing like: “what is a task you forget doing?” or “what is something you don’t like to do?”
3. Provide an example of a robot that “helps to remind you to brush your teeth” (for example.)
4. Give them access to the collection of materials they have available to them and let them start building their own invention that could be:
 - A shoe-finder machine
 - A lunch-packing helper
 - A toothbrush reminder robot
 - A book-reading buddy
5. After building, have the children name their creation and explain how it works.
6. Ask questions like: “what task does your invention help with?” “What would you change if you made it again?” “Is there another task you would make a robot for?”

Activity extension: Create a “Routine Robot Showcase” and have the children present their designs to each other.

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