

The background features several hand-drawn doodles in green ink. At the top, there is a city skyline with various buildings and a bridge. Below the skyline, there are several stars of different sizes, some connected by dashed lines. A pencil is also visible, pointing towards the right. The text 'preschool STEAM' is overlaid on these doodles.

preschool
STEAM

SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | ART | MATH

Tinker Tubs



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Credit:

KG Fonts by [Kimberly Geswein](#)



What is a Tinker Tub?

- A tinker tub is a container with provided materials that encourage children to build, create and design with or without creative prompts.



Why Use a Tinker Tub?

Tinker tubs make it easy to teach students perseverance with open-ended play and exploration.

Tinker tubs allow students to learn:

- How to learn from failure and still try again.
- How to re-evaluate, redesign and re-think a problem to create a unique, and inventive solution.
- How to persevere.

HOW TO GET STARTED WITH TINKER TUBS



1

Choose your tub

- Plastic Tub
- Plastic Bag
- Plastic Bin
- Basket
- Shoebox



2

Choose your building material

- Wooden Blocks
- Pattern Blocks
- Linking Cubes
- Craft Sticks
- Small Plastic Cups
- Recycled Containers
- Cardboard Tubes
- Pipe cleaners
- Cotton Swabs
- LEGO Bricks
- Play Dough
- Dominoes



3

Let Your Students Tinker

1. Tinker tubs may be used individually or as a small group.
2. Model to your students where to find the Tinker Tub and how to clean up the materials, but let your students do the exploring and creating with materials.
3. Challenge cards may be added as a creative prompt to challenge deeper thinking. Not all children may use the prompts; that is okay! Let the students be creators.



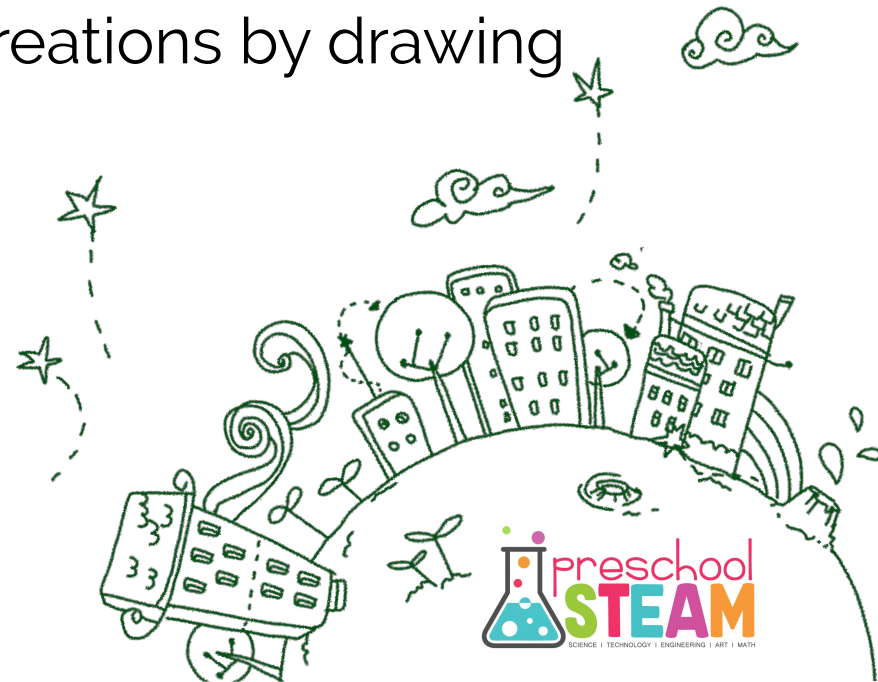
HOW TO PREP STEAM CHALLENGE CARDS

1. Print out challenge cards on heavy weight or card stock paper
2. Cut out each individual challenge card and laminate for extra durability.
3. Punch a hole in each card and display on a key ring.



Document+ & Reflect+

1. Observe your students as they use the tinker tub.
2. Document what your students say or what questions they ask.
3. Reflect on how you can take your student observations and facilitate deeper learning with additional STEAM activities.
4. Students may reflect on their creations by drawing their designs.

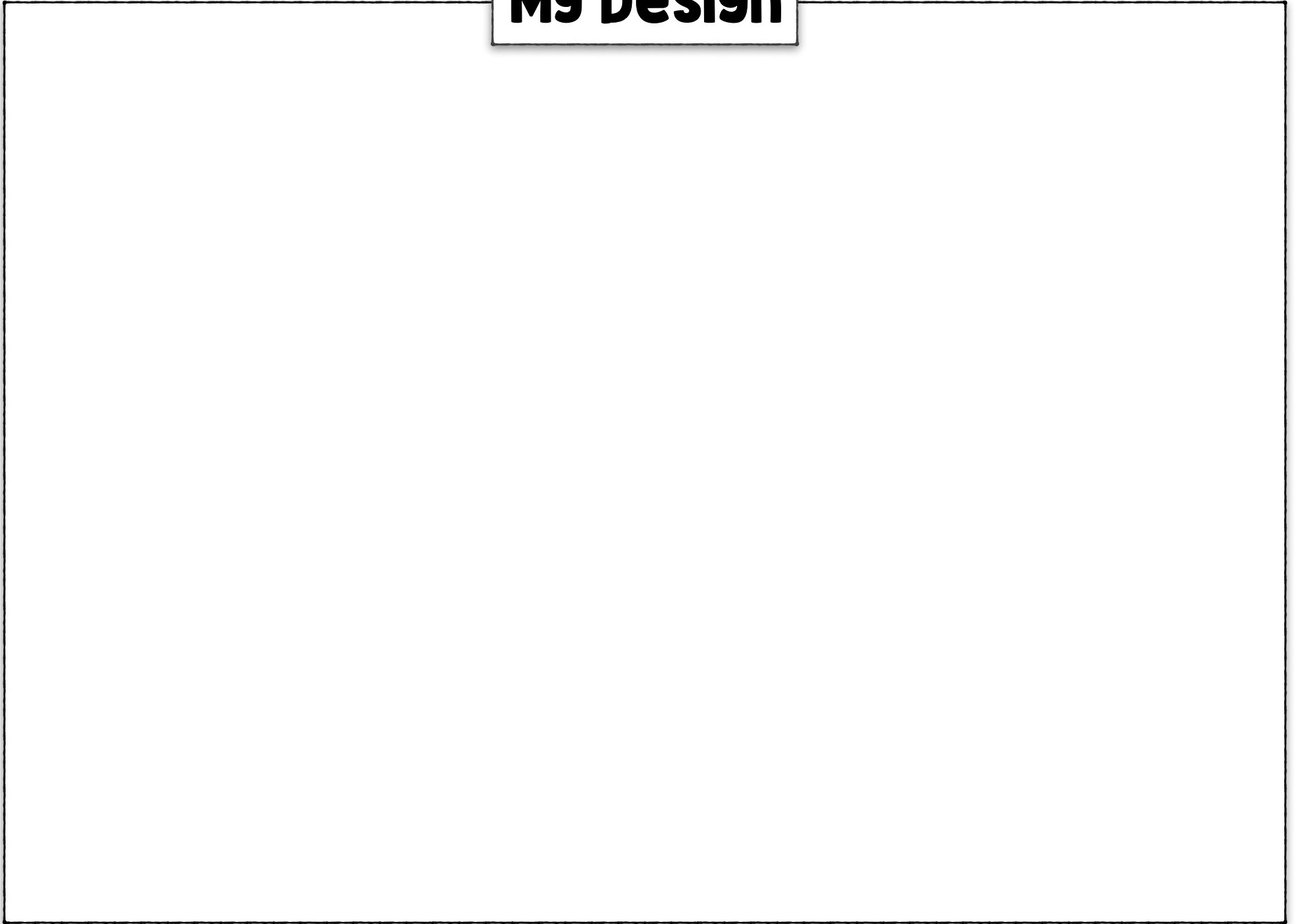


Tinker Tub Tips

- Prep your tubs in advance. I like to store Tinker Tub materials in a plastic bag I can easily pull out and dump into an empty bin.
- Only put out the number of materials that can be cleaned up in 2 minutes (or even 1 minute).
- Tinker Tubs do not replace building center. Building with big blocks provides a different set of challenges and problem-solving skills.
- Students may work together or individually.
- Try combining different materials. There is no limit to what you can use for tinkering supplies.

Name:

My Design

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw or create a design. The box is centered on the page and occupies most of the lower two-thirds of the page.

Name:

MY DESIGN





House



Skyscraper



Bridge



City



School Bus



Classroom



Playground



School



Lighthouse



Castle



Barn



Treehouse



Grocery Store



Construction Site



Shopping Center



Restaurant



Airport



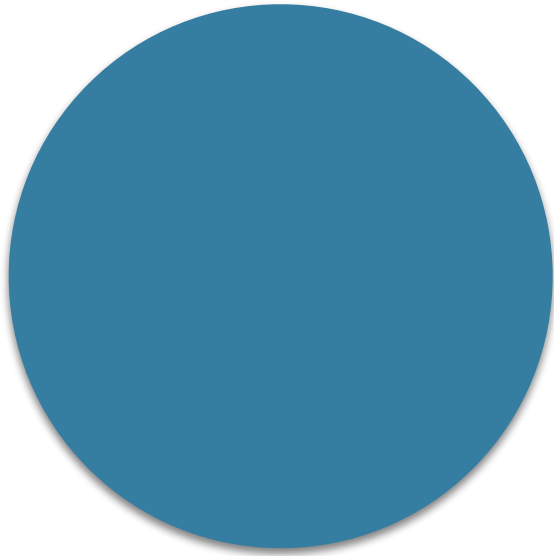
Fire Station



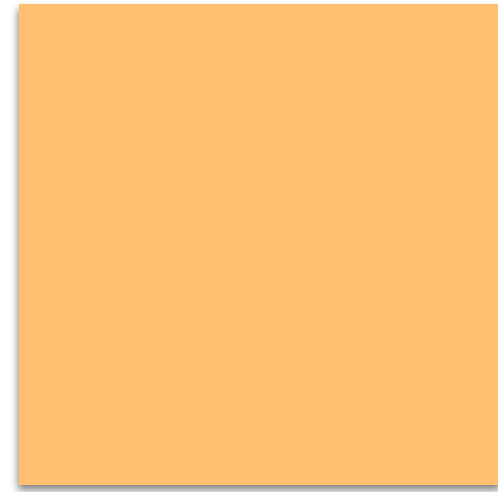
Train Station



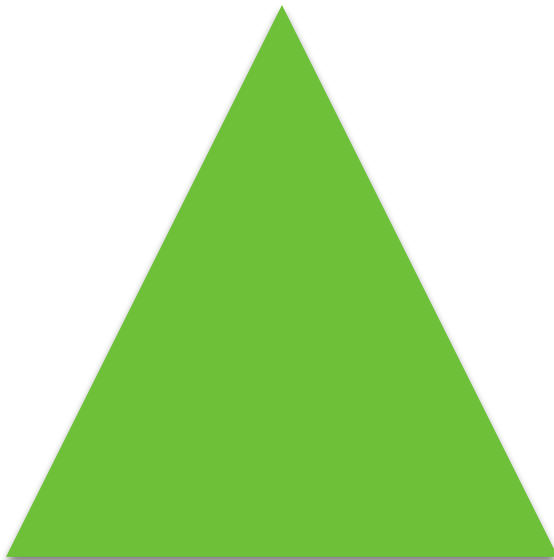
Hospital



Circle



Square



Triangle



Rectangle

[Click Here to Watch our Video](#)



ABOUT PRESCHOOL STEAM



Hi, I am Jamie.

Mom of 3 young thinkers ages 9,7, and almost 5.

I have 10 years of experience teaching art to children in preschool to 12th grade,

My passion is to show how you can inspire and encourage your students' creativity through hands on learning and problem solving.

You do not need to be an artist, scientist or mathematician to make learning fun and engaging for your students.

With three young children myself, I know how busy life gets .

I've done the work for you of selecting simple STEAM activities that do not require fancy or expensive materials, making it easy for you to incorporate STEAM activities in the classroom.

VISIT THE BLOG

Take a peek at what STEAM activities we are currently working on and helpful resources by visiting the [Preschool STEAM blog](#).

CONNECT WITH US

Check out behind the scenes photos and updates by connecting with us on social media.

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