

Terrific Topic Week 2

This week we're going to start on our journey to becoming toy-makers! We've learnt about the importance of choosing the right materials for the job, and this new knowledge will help us in our task this week.

Parents: if you haven't got a wooden spoon, I have taken some into school so you could pick one up.



Wed pm: Design a Wooden Spoon puppet

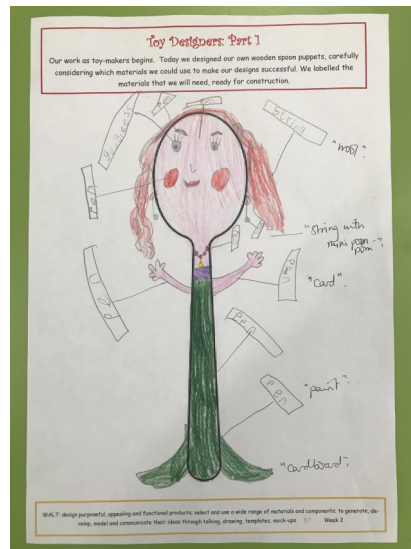
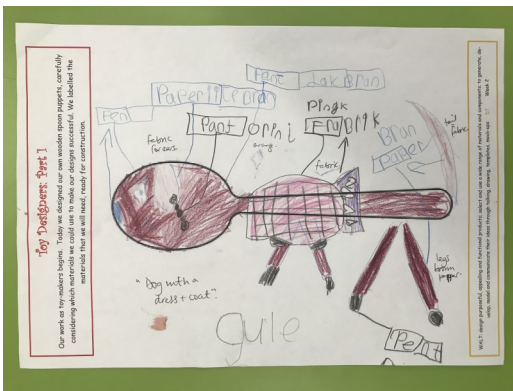
To design purposeful, functional, appealing products for themselves and other users based on design criteria.

Talk to your child about how, in the past, many old toys were home-made by parents or children themselves - partly because new toys were so expensive, and partly because it is great fun to make your own toys! Talk about any home-made toys you have had (as an example, when I was little, my grandad made a doll's house for me and my sister, my dad made the furniture and my Mum made all the duvets, carpets and curtains! My dad also made us hobby horses, my Mum made our soft toys and Sindy doll's clothes, and my sister and I used to knit scarves for our teddies.) Has your child ever made their own toy? (eg an elastic-band guitar)

Show your child the **power-point** of old wooden spoon toys and inspirations for their own designs (on the website).

Explain that this week they are going to make their own wooden spoon doll! However, before we make anything, we first have to design it—putting our ideas on paper to show not only what we want it to look like, but also what materials we want to use. Make sure your discussion includes materials used and methods of joining, fixing, strengthening.

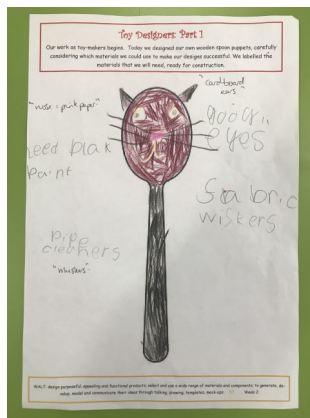
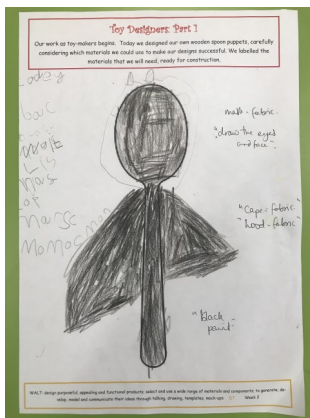
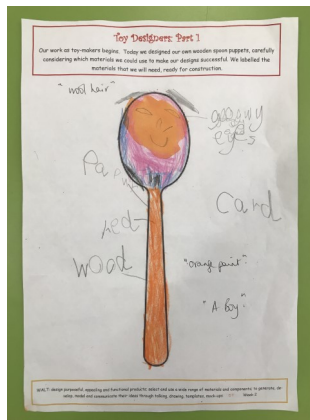
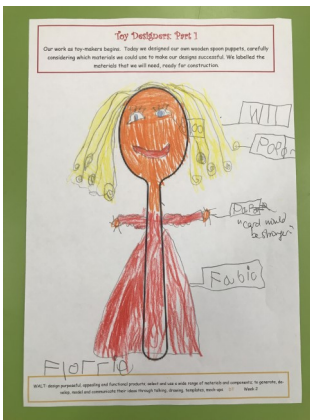
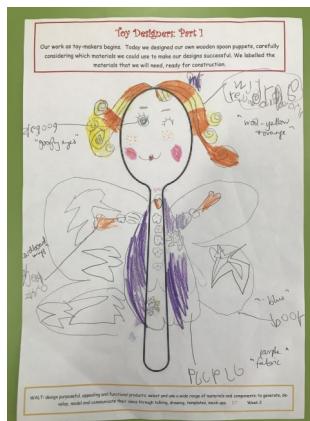
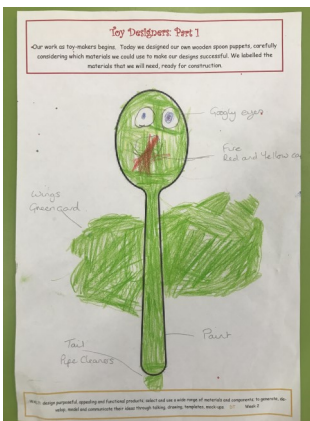
Task: Both Year R/1: Use the **worksheet** on the website so that your child can design their own puppet and label it with the materials they will need. Year 1 parents: Design the doll and label it with as much detail as possible (at the level of your child's writing ability) to show how it will be made and what materials will be needed (additional annotation by an adult is sometimes helpful—see examples below and on next page). Year R parents: Design the doll and then **talk** about how it will be made, what materials will be needed, and their choice of materials—will they be strong enough? Will they use paint, paper, card, fabric? etc., and encourage your child to write anything they can even if it's just a few letters, but also help them by **annotating** what they dictate, so they can remember what they said tomorrow...



Thurs afternoon: Wooden spoon puppets

Have a close look together at your design from yesterday, and, together, gather the materials your child needs to make their spoon puppets, encouraging them to think about how they could adapt their ideas [ie compromise!!] if certain materials aren't available: what could they use instead? Please help your child by acting as a facilitator (because it is very tricky to do and an extra pair of grown-up hands is very useful when you're 4 or 5, especially for cutting fabric and holding things in place while glue dries) but allow them to do as much as possible on their own and to **direct you** all the time so that they are completely in charge. (Top tip: last time we made these we found it easiest to attach any fabric using elastic bands and to do the face last of all so that eyes go in the right place). Talk to them all the time about why they have chosen each material, how they can strengthen or adapt their design etc. Enjoy!!!! (See page 3 for Friday activity)

Here are some examples of designs and finished products from last time we did this project, to give you some idea of the design/making process. These are a mix of Yr R/1s.




Fri pm: Spoon Puppet evaluation

Discuss what your child likes best about their spoon dolly, what they would change or improve. Would they use different materials? Why?

Year 1s (and of course Year R if you'd like to!) use the worksheet (resources PDF page 2) to record their discussion (You might like to stick a photo in the space, or they could draw their new improved design).

My Wooden Spoon Puppet
After working hard to make our Wooden Spoon Puppets, we looked closely at our finished products and evaluated them to decide what we like best about them, and what we would change or improve.



Evaluation:

I Love her because
she looks like
she is going to
hug me and her
spoon mother!

WALT: To build structures, exploring how they can be made stronger, stiffer and more stable.
To explore and evaluate a range of existing products. DT Week 3

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her Blue Bow
give her wings
and ov Pepp.