



Think Make Create

LABS

The Makerspace Playbook

Issue #29: Summer 2024

TMC ON THE MOVE: SUMMER POP-UP TMC LAB

Set up TMC in any safe, comfortable outdoor space using these items from the TMC Lab!

Canopy: Provides shade on hot days, cover from light rain, and a physical space to gather. Attach a tarp to one wall for extra shade. Fill the water weights and attach them to the legs to prevent wind from catching it.

Wagon: Fill it up with the supplies you need for an activity or the entire day. Have kids put their water bottles and lunch boxes in it. Look for wheelchair-accessible routes to avoid stairs.

Foldable table: Set up stations, activities or demonstrations at the table. Have kids stand at the table, or leave the legs up, lay it flat on the ground and have kids sit around it.

Lap boards: Use as mobile desks, drying racks, station centers, or to carry materials.

Pop-up trash can: Attach a plastic trash bag using clips, zip close to transport. When it's clean, use it to store or transport lightweight items like balloons or balls.

~ Amy Post, TMC Labs Coordinator, Idaho Out-of-School Network



Spotlight on You: Pittsburgh Yards Lunch & Learn

On June 7th, 2024, the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) and VOICES for Georgia's Children hosted an exciting Lunch and Learn event at Pittsburgh Yards. This gathering marked a significant milestone as it celebrated and supported the introduction of the first Think Make Create (TMC) Labs in Georgia.

The event brought together dedicated staff and community members to build a strong network and foster a collaborative spirit. Participants engaged in a variety of activities designed to enhance their understanding and execution of the TMC Labs initiative. These activities included collaborative learning sessions, Quality Assurance checks for the TMC Labs, and the creation of gift bags for school districts that have been awarded these innovative labs.

The TMC Labs are a transformative addition to Georgia's educational landscape, offering youth the opportunity to engage in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in a fun, hands-on environment. Each TMC Lab is independently operated and tailored to serve different youth programs, ranging from pre-K to 12th grade. This flexibility ensures that each lab can meet the unique needs of its community, providing quality out-of-school time programs that inspire creativity and critical thinking.

Special recognition was given to Pittsburgh Yards for being an exceptional host site, creating a welcoming and conducive environment for this pivotal event. The support and hospitality of Pittsburgh Yards played a crucial role in the success of the Lunch and Learn, ensuring that all attendees could focus on learning and community building. Take a moment to enjoy highlights of this great event: [TMC Build Day - Google Photos](#)

As the first TMC Labs in Georgia, these mobile makerspaces are set to make a significant impact on youth education, empowering children to tinker, make, and create. With the combined efforts of GSAN, VOICES, and the enthusiastic support of the community, the future of STEM education in Georgia looks bright and promising.

*~ Anthony Wilkes, Voices/Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network
AmeriCorps VISTA Staff*

Give It A Try: Balloon Tennis

Who doesn't love sports and movement during your summer program? In 30 minutes, students can use materials from their TMC Lab to make a tennis racket. This activity combines STEM and sports to make a fun summer outdoor or indoor activity.

To find this activity- go to

<https://beyondschoolbells.org/curriculum/edgerton-explorit-center.html>. Under free afterschool resources, click on GAMES.

~ Alana Pearson, TMC Labs Coordinator, Beyond School Bells - Nebraska



Put it Into Practice: Edgerton Explorit Center

Edgerton Explorit Center in Aurora, Nebraska has put together some fun and engaging summer camp and afterschool activities. Many of these activities can be led with your TMC Labs. Most of these lessons are under two pages, which makes these great for new or younger staff members to lead. Does your community have disc golf? If so, find a 5-day disc golf summer camp lesson for 3rd-8th graders. This is just one of many FREE summer camps available.

<https://beyondschoolbells.org/curriculum/edgerton-explorit-center.html>

~ Alana Pearson, TMC Labs Coordinator, Beyond School Bells - Nebraska

Tips and Tricks: Getting Quick Feedback from Students

It's important to get feedback from your students as you teach. So, here's a quick technique you can use to assess student understanding.

At some point in the lesson, ask your kids to give a thumbs up or thumbs down regarding how well they think they're learning the material. It's quick and everyone does it together. If kids feel they understand some, but not all the material, they can give you a sideways thumb.

With a quick scan of the classroom, you can get instant feedback regarding how your kids think they're doing.

~ Dr. Paul Verhage, AmeriCorps Instructor, Idaho Out-of-School Network

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