

Prepared by Susan Casey, author of *Kids Inventing! A Handbook for Young Inventors* and *Women Invent! Two Centuries of Discoveries That Have Shaped Our World*

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STEP 1: Brainstorm Ideas with a Friend

Brainstorming, noun. To engage in or organize shared problem solving.

Many inventors, old and young, engage in brainstorming as a way of thinking. They throw around crazy ideas. Then some of them don't seem so crazy after all. Ideas are not predictable. One idea can lead to a very idea. Get together with your friends. Throw ideas around for INVENTIONS YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE. See what brainstorming brings to you. WRITE DOWN TWO OF YOUR IDEAS:

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2.

STEP 2 – Think About Easier Ways To Do Ordinary Tasks.

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Do you or others in your	What problems come up in	What would make the jobs	What invention would							
family have jobs around the	doing these jobs?	easier to do	make the job easier?							
house? List two.										

STEP 3 -Combine Common Items

List TEN THINGS you see in your house or at school. For example, a cd, a fork, a battery, a paper clip, a ladder. 1.	Pick two or more items from your list to create something NEW—i.e., a ladder with wheels. Make a sketch!
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	

STEP 4- Think of Ideas for the Home Go from room to room in your house. Brainstorm ideas as you look at things in each room. What could you								
invent? Room			Ideas					
Kitchen								
Bathroom								
Den								
Bedroom								
Garage								
STEP 5 -Think	about people a	nd t	heir needs v	vhen lo	oking for	ideas.		
Think about the needs of these people:	What do they have tro doing? Controlling?		What would help with the problem	them	Any inventio			
Babies								
Toddlers								
People in wheelchairs								
Kids who play sports								
Blind or deaf people								
Older people								
STEP 6 – Think	of Inventions t							
	What are the problems?	What would make the situation better?		What invention would help?		Any ideas for inventions?		
Environment- Air or water pollution, bugs	prodicting:	tile	situation better:	Wodia iii	<u></u>	inventions:		
Safety –at home or at school or on the street								
Natural Disasters- Fire, Flood, Quakes, Storms, Hurricanes,								