

Make your child into a maker!

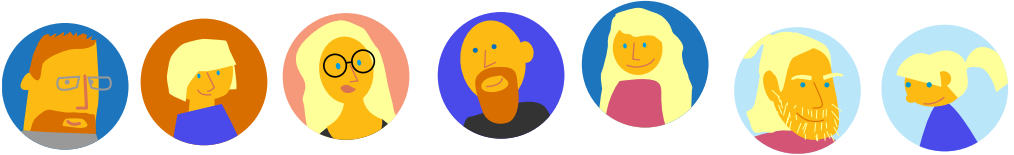
And become one as you go along :)



Six conditions to make it work!

Welcome

In this little booklet we talk about making. We wrote it for parents that want to start making crazy stuff with their young children (4 and up). How to get started?



Who are we?

We are Peet, Rufus, Astrid, Roel, Floor, Matthijs & Nika.

All makers, and always on the lookout for these precious together maker-moments. The moment everything seems to work and you feel happy and connected! We try to figure out how these moments work and how we can summon them. In this little book we share what we found out so far.

Friends

The Dutch version of this book was made possible by **Cubiss**.

Sharing is caring!

On our website www.lekkersamenklooi.nl there's loads of stuff on making and creativity. Mostly Dutch (sorry), but also some English!

There is also a download of this little book.

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Thank you!

Astrid Poot

We believe

- Yes, we believe in the positive power that lies in making.
- And that in making you can discover your own truth. We all make in our own special way.

The disclaimer:

- No, we don't want to raise your children
- And we have no secret knowledge on how to do so.
- But we are sure you have though!
- We hope we can inspire you.
- And that this little booklet helps unlock your family's secret powers!

Why make?

Making makes you feel good. A handcrafted cabinet makes you proud. Buying one not so much. And fixing your flat tire gives you satisfaction, whereas having it done only makes you feel efficient. Making makes you handy, happy and proud. All the things we wish for our children!

Why make together?

To learn how making things is exciting, because it can be difficult and prove to be (too?) challenging. Making together is safe, because you face problems together. Together you experience new things, learn cool skills and feel that doing all that makes you happy. Good for having fun and for a sense of togetherness.

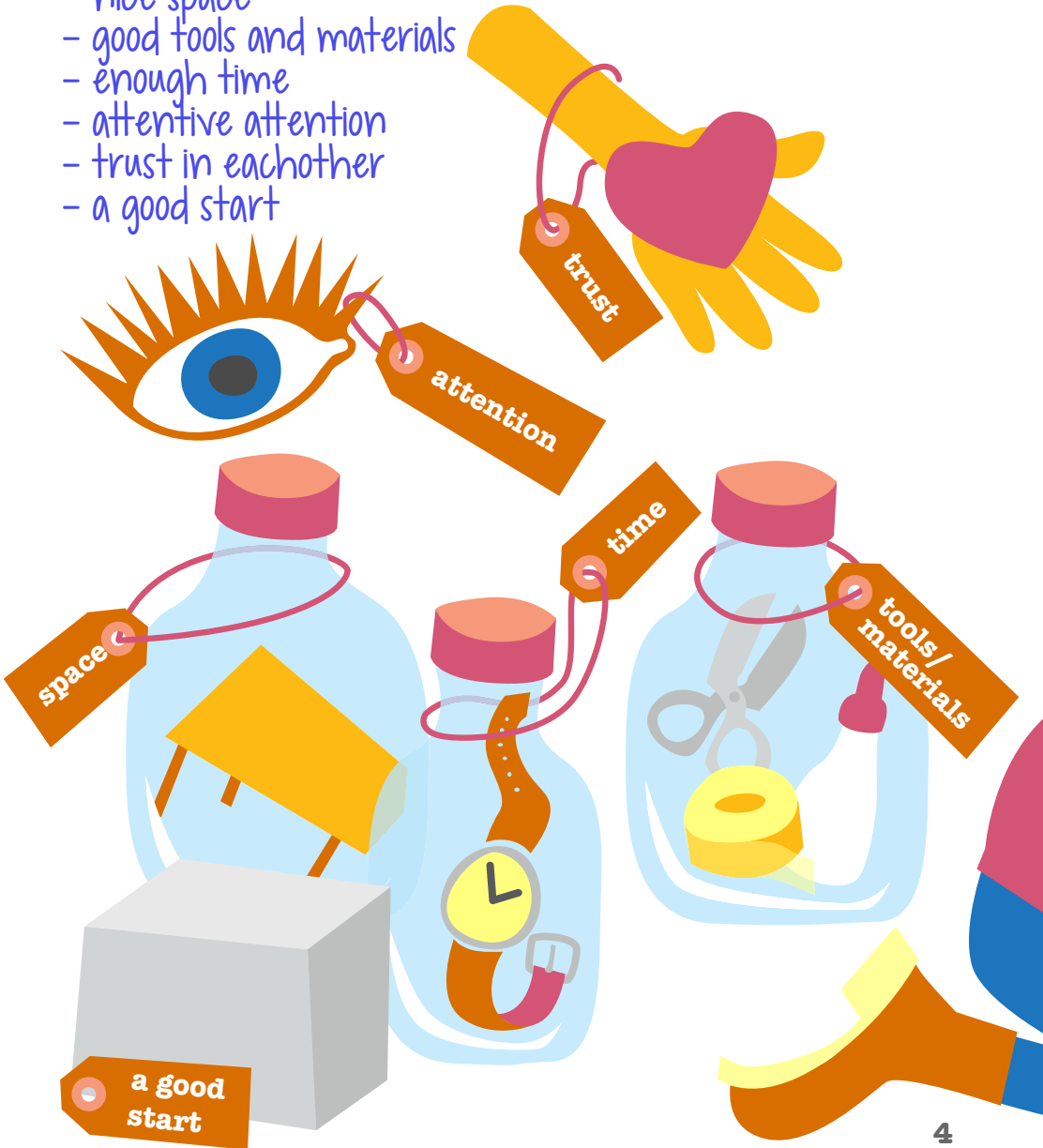
How to make together?

It can be hard to find time and peace of mind to really be together with your children; to create things together and be really engaged. In this booklet we share some stories about our experiences with creating these moments. When do you experience flow and when are you getting nowhere? What may be important conditions for making? We hope you will enjoy it!

The six conditions

For makerdays that are successful, there are six easy conditions:

- nice space
- good tools and materials
- enough time
- attentive attention
- trust in each other
- a good start



1. a nice space

Our homes are not equipped to be used as workshops. Dramatically cutting a big lump of wood with an axe or roughly painting your work with spray-paint are usually not desirable scenarios for within your home environment.

That's ok.

Simply fit the scale of your plans with the space you do have.

With scissors, paper and washi tape your antique table is perfectly safe!



When you fear for your wallpaper or your lovely table, you cannot cooperate and make without hindrance. Both you and your child will suffer from self-censorship. Choose your workplace, tools and material so that these concerns disappear!

We love the floor!
A lot of space, and we
can't damage it.



2. good tools and materials

Tools and materials don't have to be complex or expensive. They should be interesting, accessible and enough. Choose materials that offer a lot of different uses; that don't dictate what you should make. Ready, predefined crafting packages are often not as much fun as cardboard boxes, wire and pencils.

It is vital that you -as a parent- like the material as well. Otherwise you cannot fully engage.

It is nice to waste materials without feeling they are expensive or rare. In making the process of making-designing or making-inventing is at least as rewarding as the end-result. Being allowed to try and fail (and to waste materials) creates a free and happy atmosphere. If you feel you have to be careful you run the risk of self censoring.

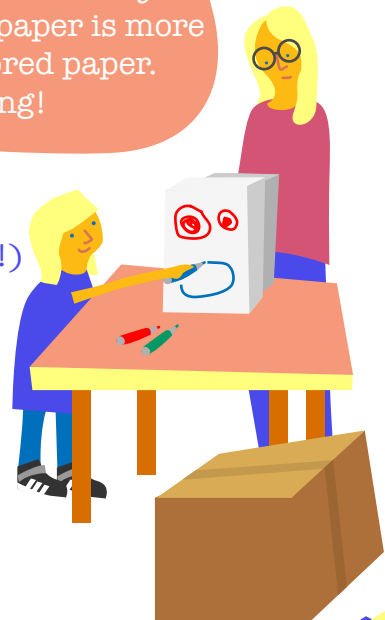


I really like 170grs white paper best. It is firm and you can easlily draw on it. Also, white paper is more of a challenge than colored paper. It can become everything!

Says Matthijs
(Who is also a paper
toy designer!)



beginning...



first idea

3. enough time

Making takes time. You should have so much time you can waste it. Being allowed to fail before final success is key in making, as is staring out of the window and moving pencils back and forth. These too are key aspects in making ;)

We like to make whole afternoons. We especially enjoy Sundays. Are you unable to allocate too many hours at once? Make sure you can easily put your project away or -better yet- keep it in sight, so you can continue every time there is a little window of opportunity.

Musing away time can feel really good.

Try it!

key moment:
we don't really like it...

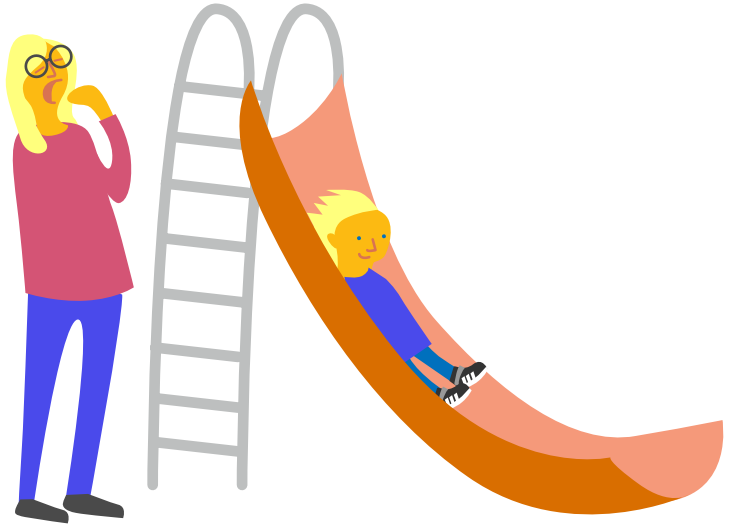


4. attentive attention

Some children-parent activities can be really boring for adults.

I've always genuinely disliked waiting at the slide in the playground. So boring!

Often parents support and stimulate their child, but do not learn so much themselves.



Then it can be hard to stay in the moment. (And not stray away to your smartphone.) With making this problem is easily avoided. Make sure you are challenged as well, that will help you keep your focus. Choose and divide tasks to match your own skills: maybe you assign yourself a more challenging activity than your child. Or just something completely different. Be challenged, you'll find yourself in blissful flow!

And does the idea of checking Instagram popup in your head while making? Be sure to make your tasks more difficult at once. Work that brain!



Challenge yourself!
Because learning is the best experience there is. And for him to see your learning is awesome for the connection with your child.

5. trust

Unconsciously and unintentionally we seem to trust our children less than they deserve. How often do we grab a task from the hands of our four-year-old to quickly fix it ourselves? When your child is putting together parts of a paper model, buttoning up a shirt, tying shoelaces or just cutting something we tend to yell:

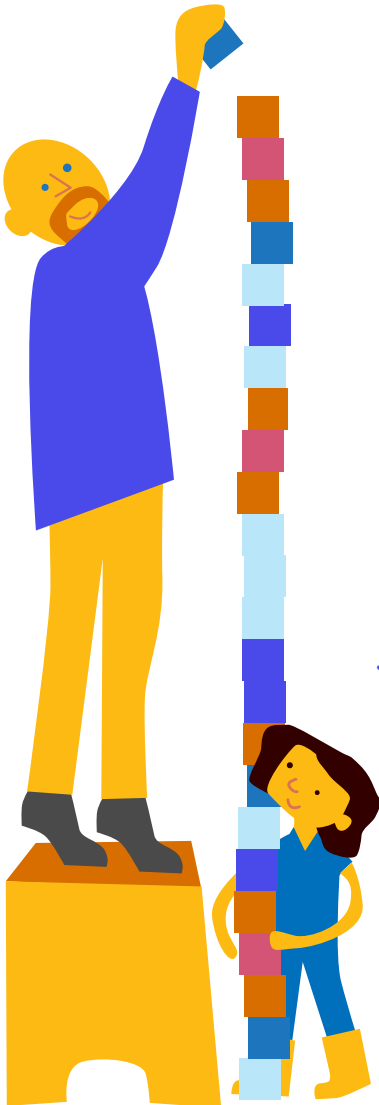
'Give it to me,
I'll do it!'

That's ok. You want him to be good. So your sweet vulnerable child doesn't have to experience failure and disappointment.

But to learn, you need trust.
Free after Biesta:

Trust your child before you know whether he can be trusted.

So: make sure there are no serious injuries or great damage. But most of all:
let it go, let it go!



5. a good start

Almost everybody experiences the fear of a clean sheet of white paper. It's difficult to start a creative process on a completely empty canvas.

How can I start?

It's nice to sense an 'entrance', a starting point. You can find this entrance in different ways.

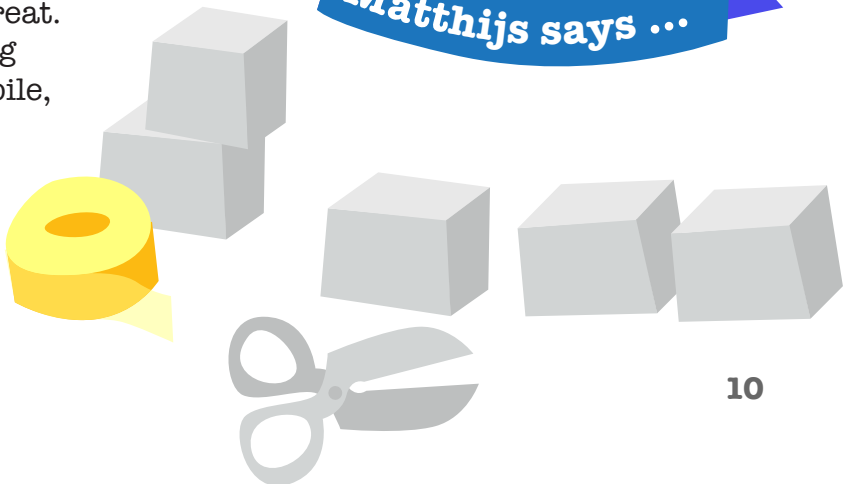


Tip 1: see together

Astrid always starts by examining the tools and materials together. What is it, how does it feel? What could we do with it? Touch and manipulate everything and examine and discuss together. No doubt you'll get ideas!

Tip 2: quick success

Matthijs makes sure there are already half-ready components. Like cardboard cubes. Instant success! Even piling them up is already great. After making such a cool pile, coming up with ideas is easy.



And also:

Tip 3: yey, failure!

Peet always emphasizes failure is really good and interesting. Especially epic failure! Failure shows bravery. Ask questions: what did we just learn? How will we continue? Make the effort to explicitly turn the failure into learning.



Tip 4: do your thing

It is not always necessary to actually work together on one project. You can work together, but each on your own project.

It's the atmosphere of focused making in the same room at the same table that will be the magic. Very flow!



Tip 5: make it visible

Don't disappear into your smartphone or tablet.

Need some instructions from the internet? Make sure you look at the screen together. Otherwise the screen will break the social process of making together.

That's it. That's all I had to say :)

Thank you for reading. Hope you liked it.

Have fun in your maker adventures!



Brabant

**This little book was made by Astrid Poot.
The Dutch version was made possible by Cubiss.
More: www.lekkersamenklooien.nl**