

Time to Get Serious!

Identify a problem to solve by Brainstorming for ideas as you answer the following questions: Think about things you do everyday or on holidays or weekends. Then think about any problems, things that bug you about doing them, or ways to make them better.

Think about all the tools or utensils you use in an ordinary day—fork, knife, toothbrush, shovel, broom, scissors, and so on.. What would make them easier to use? Or Better?

Go from room to room in your house. Brainstorm ideas as you look at items in the kitchen, the bath room, the den, the bedroom and so on. Could you use an ordinary item for a new purpose? Or make it out of a different material?

Do a Survey! Inventing with a specific person or need in mind is often a good idea. Ask others what they need. Even if another person thinks of the idea, the real problem is making a model of the idea and proving that it can work. That's your job. Use the following questions to start. Then add questions of your own to the survey.

Chores:

- Which household activities do you hate to do?
- What is it about them that you don't like?
- What would make them easier?

Sports:

- What is your favorite leisure activity or sport?
- Do you have any problems in doing the activity or sport? For example, are you too hot or too cold, do you fall down or into things?
- What would make the activity easier, safer, or more fun?

List some problems and solutions:

Chores: Kids and adults have to do chores around the house or in the yard. List some of your chores and the problems that come up when you do them. Can you think of ways to make these chores easier?

Common chores	What problems come up in doing these chores?	What would make the chores easier to do?	Any invention ideas?

--	--	--	--

Peoples needs: Think about people and their needs when looking for ideas. Use this table to list some problems experienced by different types of people.

Kinds of people	What problems do they face?	What would help them with these problems?	Any invention ideas?
Babies			
Toddlers			
Kids who play sports			
Physically impaired people			
Older people			

A better world: How can you help make the world a better place with an invention? Use this table to list problems experiences all over that world, and think about ways to solve them.

Issue	What are the problems?	What would make the situation better?	Any invention ideas?
Environment			
Safety			
Natural Disasters			