

Build, Design & Discover

A 10-Week Maker Space Class for Children Ages 4½-9 | Parent Guide

Welcome, Families!

In this creative, hands-on course, children build, engineer, design, and create their own three-dimensional projects, structures, and buildings. Young makers explore how materials fit together, what makes a structure stand, and how an idea can become something they can hold, test, and share.

Our emphasis is on curiosity, experimentation, and each child's individual creative voice - with room to test ideas, make changes, and try again.

What Children Will Explore

- Foam blocks, wood, paper mâché, popsicle sticks, wire, magnetic tape, bottle caps, cardboard, and other selected materials
- Early engineering ideas: balance, supports, strength, and movement
- Planning, building, testing, and revising original designs
- Spatial awareness, fine-motor skills, collaboration, and problem-solving
- Confidence, persistence, and pride in their own creative discoveries

Our Ten-Week Journey

Week	Creative focus
1	Meet the Materials Build a mini world while exploring shapes, textures, stacking, and balance.
2	Strong Connections Create a tower or structure and discover ways to join and support materials.
3	Bridge Builders Design a bridge, test its strength, and make improvements.
4	Architects at Work Plan and build a model home, studio, or imaginary building.
5	Paper Mâché: Shape and Form Construct a three-dimensional form and cover it with paper-mâché layers.

Week	Creative focus
6	Transform and Finish Paint and add details to bring the dry paper-mâché creation to life.
7	Wire Workshop Explore bending and looping to create a sculpture or framework.
8	Wire Workshop: Continue and Refine Continue the sculpture or framework begun in Week 7, refining its shape and adding creative details.
9	Prepare for the Maker Showcase Select a build from earlier weeks, paint it, add finishing touches, and expand upon it to prepare for the Week 10 maker showcase.
10	Finish, Improve, and Share Complete and refine the final project, then celebrate in a class maker showcase.

What to Expect

- Each class includes a short introduction, time to plan and build, opportunities to test and improve, and time to share and clean up.
- Projects may continue across weeks or need time to dry; reusable building materials may stay in the studio.
- Younger makers receive visual steps, larger materials, and hands-on support. Older makers can develop detailed plans and additional design challenges.
- A final maker showcase celebrates original projects and creative discoveries.

Clothing and Materials

Please send your child in clothing that can handle paint, glue, and creative messes. The studio provides the primary project materials. Families will receive advance notice if a clean recycled item is requested.

Safety and Inclusion

Materials and tools are selected and prepared for supervised use. Adults handle sharp tools and hot glue, with alternatives offered for different comfort levels. Please share allergies, sensory preferences, motor needs, or other supports before class so instructors can adapt activities to each child's readiness.

How Families Can Support Young Makers

- Ask open-ended questions: "How did you make it stand?" or "What did you change?"
- Invite your child to explain a design, test an idea, or describe a new discovery.
- Celebrate experimentation and persistence alongside the finished creation.

We look forward to building, experimenting, and wondering together!

Registration & Questions
Explore classes and enroll: navaronitcollective.net
Studio phone: 703-957-8347