



**A parenting
tool to...**

**Create real-world
Learning
Projects at Home**



UNBOXED

PREPARED
PARENTS

Get inspired by project ideas



What is a real-world project?

Real-world projects are activities that engage your kids in hands-on experiences. These projects allow your kids to develop new skills and habits—like problem-solving and perseverance—and retain all the facts and information they are learning longer because they are seeing how it connects to real-life situations. Projects are also motivating because they follow kids' innate curiosity.

How to create real-world learning projects at home

tip



Make it a real-world learning moment

- analyze the news
- make dinner
- design an app
- take a nature walk
- write/perform a play

#WEGOTTHIS

What are the key parts of a project?

Schools that teach project-based learning tend to include four components in each projects. You can build your projects around these key parts, too:

1. **Essential question:** key question your kid is answering or exploring (e.g. How do ocean waves affect the shoreline?)
2. **Skills, habits, and content to be learned:** specific universal skills, habits of success, and content knowledge that will be learned (e.g. oral presentation, self-direction, and wave characteristics)
3. **Final product:** a final deliverable—such as a presentation, piece of art, physical or digital model, report, or performance—that shows what your kid learned
4. **Project objective and steps:** what your kid will learn and the steps to get there
5. **Supporting resources:** materials that will be used to learn content and develop skills (e.g. book chapters, videos, worksheets, articles, etc.)

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How can we create projects at home?

You can make a project out of almost any question. Begin with a problem, question, or challenge. Then, map out what the project will entail, what your kid will learn, and what the final product will be. Use the enclosed “real-world project worksheet” to fully map out the project.

What are some examples of projects we could do at home?

You can make a project out of almost any question. Start with the problem or question at hand, and then work from there.

- **Map your family history.** Make history real by interviewing family members. Get an understanding of genealogy while also growing close to loved ones. Present the information in a family history book.
- **Graph the geography of your neighborhood.** Go on a walk and put your cartography skills to the test by mapping out the neighborhood.
- **Do a digital show-and-tell.** Practice oral presentation skills while also showcasing specific knowledge through a video conferencing show-and-tell.
- **Design an app.** Have a problem and also want to learn tech skills? Solve your problem by creating an app. Research tools you could use and go!
- **Put on a show.** Are you passionate about music, art, or theater? Use those outlets to convey a concept. Write a rap about the water cycle, perform a centric concert about math concepts, or write a play about an historic event.
- **Analyze the news.** Understand how to use and select sources while assessing current media. How to different networks vary in coverage? What biases exist? How would you report differently on a key topic or event?

Get inspired by even more [project ideas from Prepared Parents](#).

Real world project activity

Use this worksheet to plan your real-world project. Use extra paper if needed.

1. What is the essential question you're exploring?

2. What *skills, habits, and content* do you want to learn from this project?

3. What is the final product of the project?

4. What are the steps you'll take to get to your final product?

5. What resources, such as books, videos, or articles will you use to learn?

6. Will you collaborate with other family members or friends on this project? If so, what will be their roles? Consider using a decision grid to define roles. Find a decision grid, as well as other resources, on the following pages.

Sample Decision Grid

A tool for effective and collaborative decision-making

	Stakeholder #1	Stakeholder #2	Stakeholder #3	Stakeholder #4
Decision A	Role	Role	Role	Role
Decision B	Role	Role	Role	Role

Source: Summit Public Schools

Role Codes

D / Decision: Person or people who make the decision

P / Proposal: Person or people who are involved in developing the proposal

I / Input: Person or people who provide input on the proposal

V / Veto: Person or people who can veto the decision

MBI / Must Be Informed: Person or people who who must be informed of the decision

The best decisions are those achieved through consensus. Use this decision grid as a household tool, or put it to work when you're designing a project. You can use a decision grid to define roles of key collaborators.

The 36 Universal Skills

Across 7 key domains

Using Sources

- » Selecting Relevant Sources
- » Contextualizing Sources
- » Synthesizing Multiple Sources

Products & Presentations

- » Style and Language (Tone, Academic Language, Syntax)
- » Oral Presentation
- » Multimedia ie “Wider Production”
- » Multimedia in Oral Presentation
- » Conventions
- » Precision

Speaking & Listening

- » Discussion/Contribution
- » Preparation
- » Norms/Active Listening

Textual Analysis

- » Theme/Central Idea
- » Point of View/Purpose
- » Development
- » Structure
- » Word Choice

Analysis & Synthesis

- » Identifying Patterns & Relationships
- » Comparing/Contrasting
- » Modeling
- » Interpreting Data/Info
- » Making Connections & Interferences
- » Critiquing the Reasoning of Others
- » Justifying/Constructing an Explanation

Inquiry

- » Asking Questions
- » Hypothesizing
- » Designing Processes & Procedures

Composing & Writing

- » Argumentative Claim
- » Informational/Explanatory Thesis
- » Narrative
- » Counterclaims
- » Selection of Evidence
- » Explanation of Evidence
- » Integration of Evidence
- » Organization (Transitions, Cohesion, Structure)
- » Introduction and Conclusion

Trying to get insights into which skills you'd like to learn during your project?

Get inspired with this list of the *36 Universal Skills* across seven key domains.

Source: Summit Public Schools, developed in collaboration with the Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning & Equity (SCALE)

The 16 Habits of Success

Mindsets and behaviors that support academic achievement and well-being

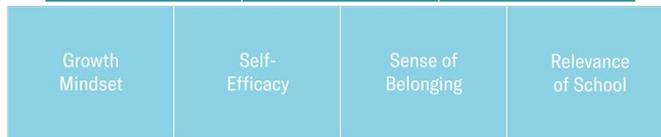
Independence & Sustainability



Perseverance



Mindsets for self & school



School Readiness



Healthy Development



Source: Summit Public Schools, as based on the *Building Blocks for Learning Framework*, Dr. Brooke Stafford-Brizard, Turnaround for Children, 2016

Wondering which habits you'd like to practice during your project? These are the *16 Habits of Success* that enable kids to be successful at both academic and non-academic pursuits.

Share your projects with us!

Are you creating projects at home? Has it made a difference in the way you think about learning? Share your projects with us to inspire other kids and parents.

Email us at info@preparedforsuccess.org or find Prepared Parents on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [Twitter](#) to share your story and photos. We'd love to share your experience with the community!