Movie ☆ MAGIC

Thanks to some simple technology and a bit of help, your child can now make a movie of her own!

Has your child ever asked how movies or cartoons are made? This stop-motion animation project is perfect for letting Junior learn the process — after all, it's much more interesting and fun to get involved than just talk about it.

Here are the basic items and steps to get started. Once your child gets the hang of things, she will be inspired to find different ways to do things. Besides encouraging creativity and problem-solving, such a project will also boost confidence by giving children autonomy in the process, enable them to plan and organise their thoughts, and foster experimentation through trial and error. It also supports storytelling which helps to promote language and literacy skills and at the same time, sparks your child's imagination. ♥

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

FOLLOW THESE STEPS

1 Find a well-lit space and place one piece of the foam board on the floor or table, and prop the other up against the wall so the two pieces are perpendicular to each other. This will be the 'stage'.

2 Let your child pick characters to be featured in the movie from the selection of toys assembled.

3 Place the objects where she wants them on the foam board and snap a picture.

4 Continue snapping a picture each time the toys are manipulated or their position changed — to get these to 'act' according to the story.

5 When you have all the pictures you need for the animation, click 'finish' and let the app do the rest — it will automatically convert the pictures into a stop-motion video.

6 Do a demo for your child, then let her take over to work on her own short film.

- Foam board x2
- Toys – lots of it!

STOP-MOTION ANIMATION

- Tablet or smartphone
- Stop-motion application (you can download free apps from the App Store or Google Play)
- Tripod or smartphone stand to hold the device in place

TRY THIS TRICK!

Add details to the video with the use of props. For a more lively backdrop, you can open up a big picture book to a page your child likes and use that as a setting for the story to be 'shot'.