

Family Connect

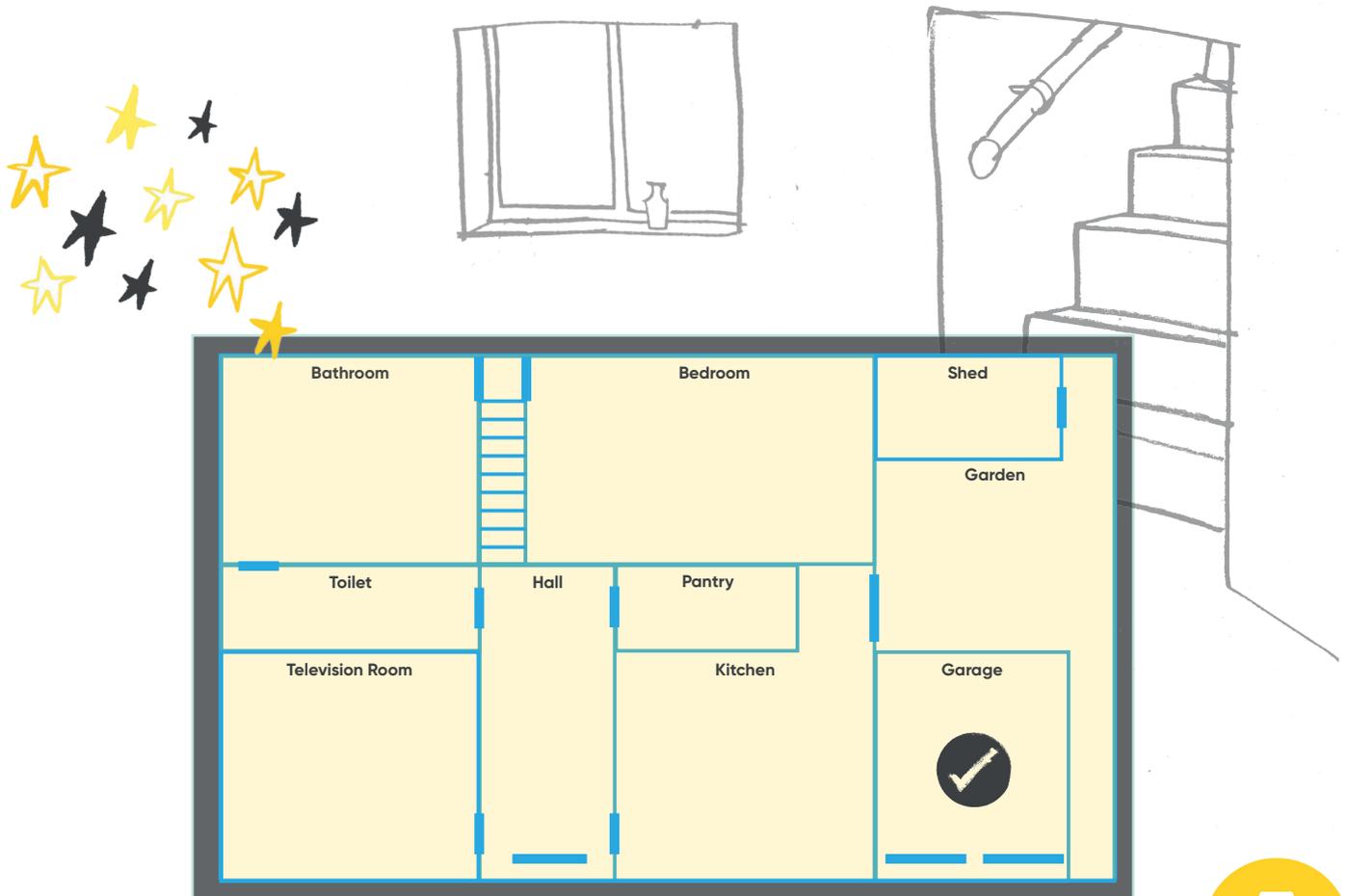
Getting Down with the Garage Groove!



Don't worry if you don't have a garage (or a shed) – these fun and engaging activities can actually be enjoyed anywhere in the house!

There are four challenges here: one for children aged 4 – 6, one for those aged 6 – 8, one for those 9 and over – and one for the whole family. We'd suggest that your children tackle the age-appropriate challenges as independently as possible – before all settling down together for the Family Challenge.

Your children can write their responses on anything – but if it helps, there are printable worksheets at the end of this document. In fact, you can type directly onto these on your device, too, if you want to cut down on printing!



Getting Down with the Garage Groove!



Ages 4 - 6

Challenge 1: Literacy

Explain to your child/children that you're going to play a game of Connection Pairs, and that this is how you play ... Select two different objects and agree between you what connects them. There are no "wrong" answers here - as long as there is a definite "connection". So, as a wheel and a tin of paint are both round - that's what connects them. Make a record of the two objects - and the connection.

Now that everyone has the hang of things, your child's/children's challenge is to find nine more "connection pairs", recording each time what the two objects are - and what the connection is. And as an additional layer of challenge, all the objects must be in the garage/shed (or, if you don't have these, a specified room in the house)!

Challenge 2: Maths

Ask your child/children to select three cuddly toys/dolls/action figures, who are going to spend the day together in the garage/shed (or, if you don't have either of these, in a specified room in the house). Talk together about how they might spend their time remembering the need to eat, drink, play, learn and share stories.

The challenge now is for your child/children to construct a schedule for the toys for a weekday. They'll need to break the day down into "chunks" - and might find it helpful to use the Activity Sheet that we've provided. They can use words and/or images to construct their schedule (they may already be familiar from school with the concept of "visual timetables") - and they'll need to make sure that all of the toys' needs are catered for. And as an extension, they might like to create a second structure - this time for life on a Saturday or Sunday!

Note: we're all so used to working with "time" that we often forget this is a mathematical skill - so this activity is another great way of supporting understanding of the huge breadth of what we call "maths"!



Getting Down with the Garage Groove!



Ages 4 - 6

Challenge 3: Science

Explain that the challenge is to find examples of objects we use that come from living things – and examples of objects we use that don't. Explore the garage/shed together – and pick something that's made, even if only partially, from wood (if you don't have a garage/shed, work together in a specified room in the house). Talk about whether that object originally came from a living thing or not (it did – it came from a tree!).

Ask your child/children to find five more objects – and to decide for each whether or not it came from a living thing. They should record their findings by writing or drawing the name of each object, and awarding it with either a tick (living thing) or a cross (not a living thing). You might like to explore with older children how oil-based products do, ultimately, come from living things.

Note: this challenge can launch really thought provoking conversations on how high our dependence is on the world around us.

Challenge 4: Music

Explain that the challenge is to design and make two percussion instruments – each one making a musical sound. Now might be a good opportunity for a conversation about the difference between "music" and "noise"!

Ask your child/children to explore the objects in the garage or shed (if you don't have either of these, use a specified room in the house). Their job is to identify all of the objects/materials they plan to use (including anything required to secure objects/materials to each other) – bearing in mind the need to not damage anything useful. With this in mind, they should report their plans back to you before embarking on any construction and/or testing – and, if necessary, rethink those plans after hearing your feedback.

And, of course, once the instruments have been made, the whole family can settle back to listen to them!

We'd love to see (and hear) the results of all this musical work – so why not tweet them, using @AsCreatives and #FamilyConnect



Getting Down with the Garage Groove!



Ages 6 - 8

Challenge 1: Literacy

Ask your child/children to explore the garage/shed (or, if you don't have either of these, a specified room in the house) – and choose something that they think they could sell to somebody else. Explain that they will be asked to come up with a sales pitch for their chosen item – and that there are some specific tasks that they'll have to tackle in order to do this.

1. Decide on the audience ... what sort of people might buy the object? Your child/children will need to know this to help them use the most appropriate writing style, vocabulary and persuasive techniques.
2. Rename the object – to make it sound snazzier while still hinting at its purpose.
3. Create a tag-line for the object, as part of a magazine advert. Remember – this needs to hook the "audience" in and make them want to read/look at the rest of the advert.

Once that's all done, they can start work on the advert, using words, images and other persuasive techniques to sell their object!

Challenge 2: Maths

Explain to your child/children that this challenge is all about sharing – and that they'll have to think about fractions, equivalent values and rounding up/down. The first job is to create an audit of everything that's in the garage or shed, apart from the car (if you don't have either of these, choose a specified room in the house – your main living room, perhaps).

Once the audit has been completed, tell your child/children to imagine that, as a family, you have decided to give everything in the garage/shed/other room away to four other people – and that it must all be shared as equally as possible. Where the maths allows, they should divide the total number of any given object by four to determine how it's being shared. Where the total is not a multiple of four, though, they will have to bear in mind two strategies, sometimes utilising both at one time ...

- Rounding numbers up or down (it's quite difficult to give someone one and a quarter screwdrivers, of course!) ...
- Allocating different items to different people, using equivalence. If there are only three screwdrivers, what could they give to the fourth person that would be of roughly equivalent value? And "value" isn't always financial, of course – it might refer to something that's equally useful!

Once the sharing has been completed, ask your child/children to repeat the process – but this time dividing all the objects between five people.



Getting Down with the Garage Groove!



Ages 6 - 8

Challenge 3: Science

Explain that the challenge is to explore which everyday objects are made predominantly from rock, which from metal and which from plastic. With this in mind, ask your child/children to explore objects/materials in the garage/shed, including any materials making up the structure of the space, for about ten minutes (or, if you don't have a garage or shed, another specified room).

Now tell your child/children to identify ten objects – and to decide for each whether or not it has been predominantly created from rock, metal or plastic. They must find at least three examples of each, recording their findings by writing or drawing the name of each object, and awarding it with an R (rock), an M (metal) or a P (plastic).

Note: this challenge can act as a great springboard for conversations exploring and highlighting energy usage in manufacturing processes – and the impacts of all this on climate change.

Challenge 4: Music

Explain that the challenge is to design and make two stringed instruments – each one producing a range of musical notes. Now might be a good opportunity for a conversation about the difference between "music" and "noise"!

Ask your child/children to explore the objects in the garage or shed (if you don't have either or these, use a specified room in the house). Their job is to identify all of the objects/materials they plan to use (including anything required to secure objects/materials to each other) – bearing in mind the need to not damage anything useful. With this in mind, they should report their plans back to you before embarking on any construction and/or testing – and, if necessary, rethink those plans after hearing your feedback.

And, of course, once the instruments have been made, the whole family can settle back to listen to them!

We'd love to see (and hear) the results of all this musical work – so why not tweet them, using @AsCreatives and #FamilyConnect



Getting Down with the Garage Groove!



**Ages 9
and over**

Challenge 1: Literacy

Ask your child/children to explore the garage/shed (or, if you don't have either of these, a specified room in the house) – and choose something that has a specific purpose. The challenge now is to imagine a completely different purpose for the object – and write clear instructions for how to use it in this new way!

Note: this challenge will really stretch your child's/children's thinking powers – because the ability to think laterally (in productive ways) is a key marker of creativity!

Challenge 2: Maths

Note: if you don't have a tape measure or ruler, it might help to know that an adult stride is about a metre – and that a biro (without its lid) is about 15cm long!

Explain to your child/children that this challenge requires to them to think about both “scaling up/down” and logistics. Their first job is to measure the footprint of your garage/shed, drawing an accurate scale diagram of it, together with the length and width of a car. If you don't have a garage or shed, choose a specified room in the house. And if you don't have a car, a reasonable measurement would be 4m x 2m.

Your child/children should mark off an eighth of the area they've drawn, as a car park accommodating fifty cars.

Your child/children can now complete the challenge independently, using what they have learned so far to complete their plan, including ...

- A primary school ...
- Some local shops ...
- Some houses ...
- A “green” area ...
- Service roads and pedestrian crossings ...
- Anything else that they feel will help the local community.

We'd suggest using a pencil – as people are almost certain to change their minds as they go through the challenge!



Getting Down with the Garage Groove!



**Ages 9
and over**

Challenge 3: Science

Explain that the challenge is about conservation. With this in mind, ask your child/children to explore objects/materials in the garage/shed, including any materials making up the structure of the space, for about ten minutes (or, if you don't have a garage or shed, another specified room).

Now tell your child/children to identify ten objects – and to decide for each (a) whether or not heat has been used to create it ... and (b) whether or not the object is recyclable as it stands, could be partly recycled or cannot be recycled. They should record their findings in full.

Challenge 4: Music

Explain that the challenge is to design and make two wind instruments – each one capable of producing a range of musical notes. Now might be a good opportunity for a conversation about the difference between “music” and “noise”!

Ask your child/children to explore the objects in the garage or shed (if you don't have either or these, use a specified room in the house). Their job is to identify all of the objects/materials they plan to use (including anything required to secure objects/materials to each other) – bearing in mind the need to not damage anything useful. With this in mind, they should report their plans back to you before embarking on any construction and/or testing – and, if necessary, rethink those plans after hearing your feedback.

And, of course, once the instruments have been made, the whole family can settle back to listen to them!



Getting Down with the Garage Groove!



Family Challenge

Getting Started

Explain to the whole family that the challenge is to go back to another time when families were cooped up together – but but one where they didn't have the ability to go beyond four walls that social media gives us.

Spend a bit of time looking at Anderson Shelters together – types of air raid shelters that some people had in their back gardens during World War II. Families would sometimes spend hours in these shelters, without heat, without electricity and often with little food. Ask each of your family members to think about what they would miss most in that situation – and to share this with everyone.

You're going to recreate some of the more positive aspects of these experiences – without the dangers of the air raids themselves, of course – spending three or four hours together without any modern amenities. With one exception (unless you're super hardy): you'll probably want to allow people to visit the toilet!

The first thing is to agree where you're going to base yourselves. If you're really hardcore, you might go for the garage or shed (if you have one) – but any room in the house would do. If it's a large room, though, we'd suggest you cordon off one part of it, as a no-go area – you are trying to replicate a small space!

Science

Whichever room you go for, you'll need to shut out as much natural light as possible. And you'll need to think of ways of creating your own light, too – without using anything running from the mains. Torches would be a good bet!



Getting Down with the Garage Groove!



Family Challenge

Golden Time – Planning

The next job is to decide how to pass the time. Working individually or in small teams, you're going to nominate activities or games that everyone will take part in. And while none of these can require screens or phones, there are lots of possibilities – including ...

- Board games
- Other games (dominoes, for example – or charades)
- Stories (improvised – or read from books)
- Jigsaws
- Puzzle books

The important thing is that everyone will join in with everything – no complaining!

Maths

You'll want to eat while you're shut away from the outside world – so take some time to plan your snacks. You'll need to be mindful of wartime rationing, of course – and here are a few examples of the allowances per adult per week ...

- Cooked Meat: 120g
- Cheese: 60g
- Butter: 60g
- Margarine: 120g
- Sugar: 250g
- Jam/Marmalade: 60g
- Tea: 60g
- Eggs: 1
- Sweets: 90g



Getting Down with the Garage Groove!



Family Challenge

Literacy

You're all going to make video diaries about your experiences later, so now is the time to agree three questions that each family member will answer. Remember – the more "open" these are, the better!

Counting Down ...

You'll need to agree what time you're going to enter your "Anderson Shelter" – and how long you're going to spend there. Make sure you plan things so that you have time to furnish it with all the things you've agreed to take in there – and to make your snacks!

Time to Go!

At the agreed time, gather together in the Shelter; close the door – and shut out as much natural light as possible. Unless someone is expecting an important call, all phones and other devices should be turned off. Once you're settled, let the youngest member of the family announce their choice of activity – and enjoy it together. The remaining activities then proceed in order of the age of the family members nominating them – and snack-time will come half way through your stay in the shelter.

Back to the Future

Once your time in the Shelter has come to an end, use a phone (or another device) to record each family member's video diary, responding to the questions that you agreed earlier to reflect on your experiences.

We'd love to see your Anderson Shelter Video Diaries – so why not tweet them, using @AsCreatives and #FamilyConnect

