

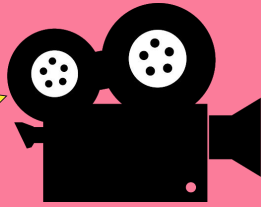
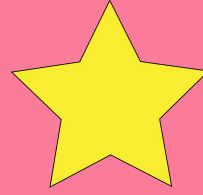
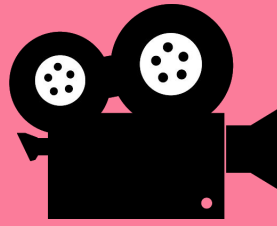
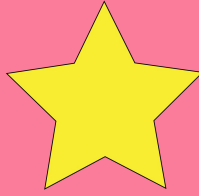
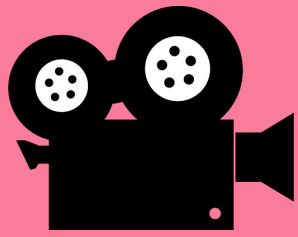
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ICA Kids is thrilled to present this activity designed by the Cote Family— Olivia (age 10), Esme (age 7), and their parents! Follow along with their instructional video ["5 Home Movie TIPS for Kids"](#).

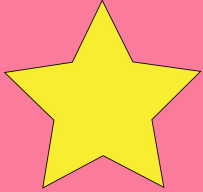
We hope you enjoy learning from the Cotes and that your family is inspired to make home movies for years to come! Share your artwork with us at familyprograms@icaboston.org or on social media with #ICAartlab. Find more activities for families at icaboston.org/artlab

Warmly,
Brooke Scibelli
Family & Art Lab Programs Coordinator

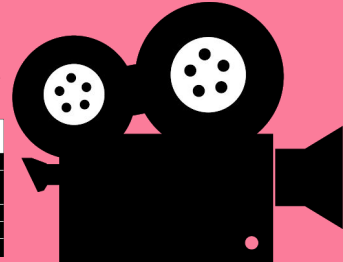
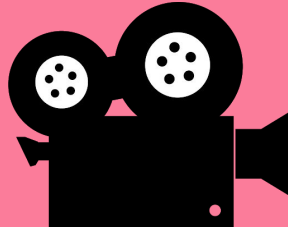
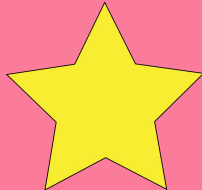
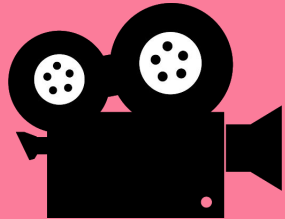
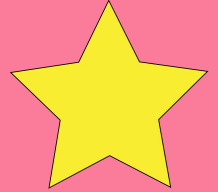


HANDS ON

HOME MOVIE TIPS



Make a film at home with these easy tips!



Home movies are a fun way to be creative with your family. Everyone can pitch in, and you can work at your own pace!

Since everybody has different ideas, when you work together you can make a home movie you're all proud of.

Plus, when you get older, it's fun to look back on your home movies to see how much you've grown!

So here are five tips that will help you make a home movie that will impress your friends and bring joy to everyone. We hope you enjoy them!

-Olivia and Esme



Esme and Olivia Cote
2020 Winners
Boston International Kids Film Festival

Words to know



Actor – A person who pretends to be someone else in the movie

Casting – Deciding which actor should play each part.

Director – The person in charge of the movie.

“Action!” – What the director says to have actors start acting.

Lines – The words an actor says.

Script – A written version of the movie, including all the lines and everything that will happen.

Storyboard – A version of the script that has sketches of how the movie will look.

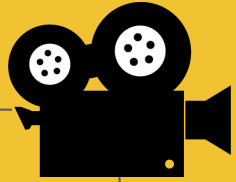
Scene – A smaller part of a movie, usually just in one location.

Shot – A smaller part of a scene. Shots are put together in a sequence to tell the story.

Take – Every time you do the same shot over again, it's a new take.

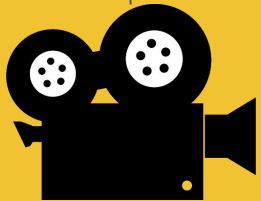
Editing – Using a program like iMovie to watch all the takes and pick the best ones, then putting them in order to tell the story. When you're done editing, you have a movie!

What you need



You only need a few things to start filming!

- ☐ Video camera (with plenty of storage space to record!)
- ☐ Actors
- ☐ Costumes
- ☐ Locations for each scene
- ☐ Set decorations (like signs and props)
- ☐ Lights (if you're filming somewhere dark)
- ☐ An editing program (like iMovie, which is free on Apple computers and phones)



Tip #1- Use What You Have.

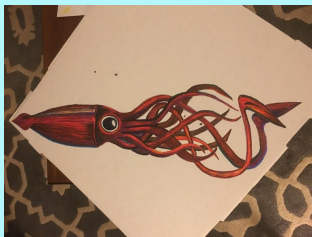
Believe it or not, you probably already have everything you need to start making a home movie!

You don't need a big fancy camera to start filming. Most people have a camera on their phones, and that works totally fine!!

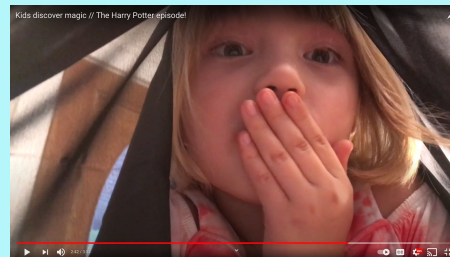
You can also make your own costumes, sets, signs and props. Look around your house and get creative! What if you move around some furniture, or hang up a sign?

Part of the fun is using your imagination. So look around and use what you have! 😊

A piece of cardboard becomes a scary sea monster!



An old scarf can be an invisibility cloak!



Tip #2- PLAN, PLAN, PLAN and PLAN!

Plan your story

Your home movie can be about anything you can imagine!

Think of a story that would be fun to watch, then figure out who the characters are, where they go, and what they say.

Plan your locations

Look around your house or your neighborhood to find places to film.

Look for someplace quiet, where you can film as long as you want.

Just make sure that you have enough room to setup your camera!

Plan your costumes

Look at the clothes in your closet to create costumes for your characters.

Try to find an outfit that will fit the mood of what you're filming. If it's a happy part, wear bright colors. If it's a sad part, wear dark colors.

Plan your shots

The great thing about a home movie is that you don't have to film it all in one go -- you get to film little pieces of each scene and edit them together. But it's hard to keep it all in your mind. So instead, make a storyboard!

A storyboard is like a rough draft of your movie, with little pictures for each shot you need to film. Keep the storyboard with you as you film, and check off each shot as you go!

Hands On Activity - Write your story!

What is the genre of your story?

What is your story about?

Where does the story take place?

Who are the characters?

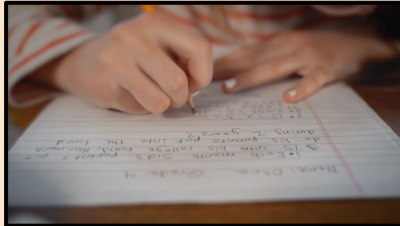
What do the characters need to do?

First: _____

Next: _____

Then: _____

And Finally: _____

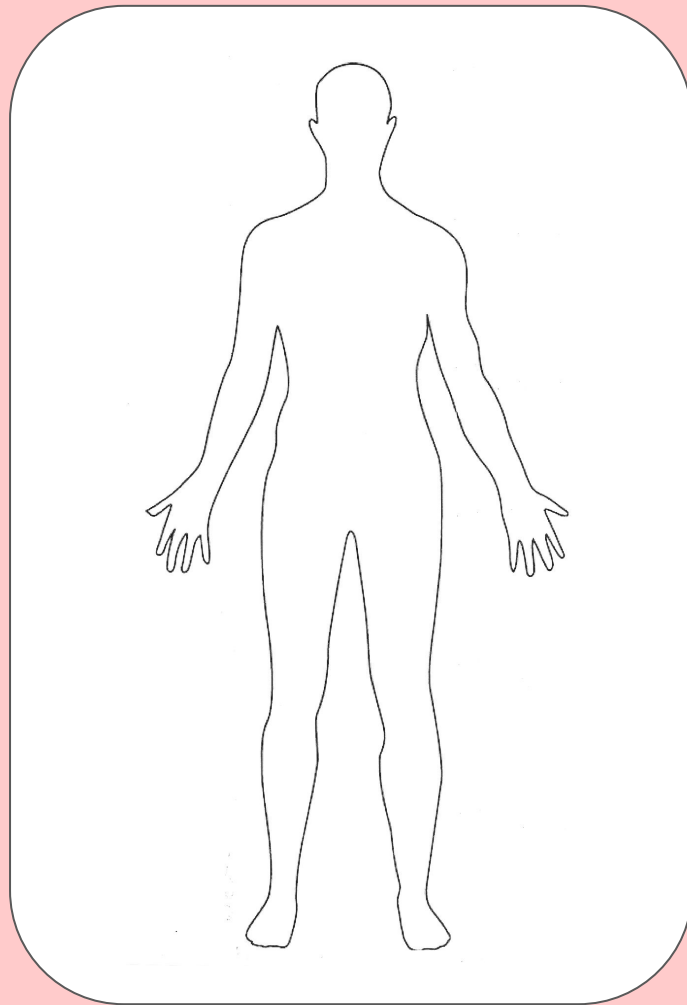
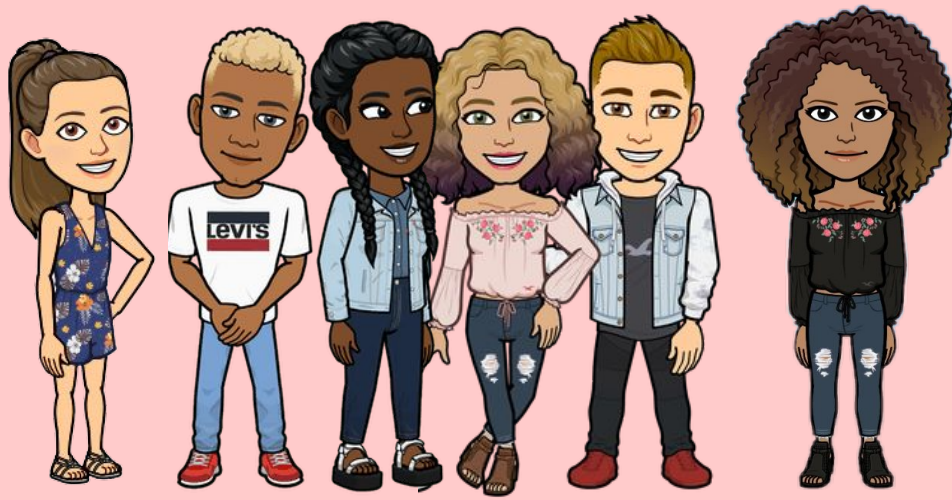


Hands On Activity - Design a costume!

How do you design a costume? Start by asking a few questions about the character.

Are they young or old? Are they happy or sad? What's their favorite color? All of these questions will help you figure out what that character should wear!

Draw your costume design here, then look through your closet to see how you can bring it to life!



Hands On Activity - Make a storyboard for your film!

Scene # ____



What happens? _____

Who's in the scene? _____

What props do you need? _____

Scene # ____



What happens? _____

Who's in the scene? _____

What props do you need? _____

Scene # ____



What happens? _____

Who's in the scene? _____

What props do you need? _____

Scene # ____



What happens? _____

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What happens? _____

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Scene # ____



What happens? _____

Who's in the scene? _____

What props do you need? _____

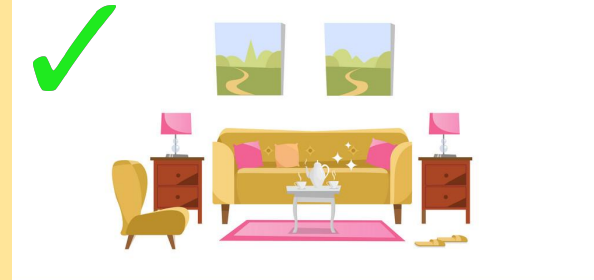
Tip #3- Make sure it looks good.

You're going to watch your home movie for years to come. So before you start to film, clean up a little! Make sure that everything in your shot looks the way you want it to look.

Also, make sure that your lighting is nice. Try to film at a good time of day when there's lots of light in the room where you are filming.



Turn the lights on!



Tidy up!

Tip #4- Just keep going until you get it right.

Remember – you’re going to edit together all of your best shots, so you don’t have to get it right on the first try!

Just practice and keep going until you’re happy with the shot. You can also try saying the line in different ways. You could say it with a different mood, change up the wording, speed it up, or slow it down. Then when you go to edit it together, you can pick what works the best!

You can even come back and do it tomorrow if you need to! So, just keep going until you’re happy with it.



This shot from our Backyard Sword Fight episode only lasts 1.5 seconds, but we filmed 27 different takes of it!

Olivia’s line was “Why are you in my yard?” which seems pretty easy, but for some reason we just couldn’t get it. But when you watch the final video, you would never know!

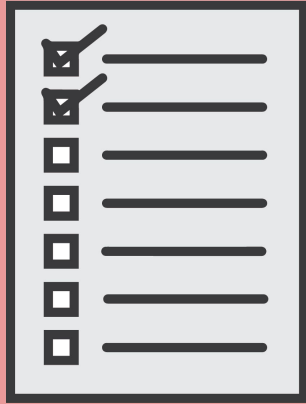


On the other hand, this shot from Esme Gets a Job lasts almost a full minute, but we managed to get it on the first take!

It just goes to show that you never know how long something might take. You just have to keep going!

Hands On Activity - Home movie checklist!

Check off each one as you go!



- ☐ Come up with an idea
- ☐ Write the script
- ☐ Draw the storyboard
- ☐ Cast the actors
- ☐ Design costumes
- ☐ Find locations
- ☐ Create set decorations and props
- ☐ Film your first shot!
 - ☐ Pick a sketch from your storyboard
 - ☐ Tell the actors what they need to do
 - ☐ Practice before you start recording
 - ☐ Start filming! Keep going until everyone's happy.
 - ☐ Cross off that sketch, and pick a new sketch to film next!
- ☐ After you've filmed all your scenes, upload the footage to iMovie
- ☐ Decide which takes you like the best
- ☐ Try to put them in order, just like the storyboard
- ☐ Now try rearranging shots or scenes - play around with it!
- ☐ Look for music that might go along with each scene
- ☐ Share the movie with your family and friends!

Tip #5- HAVE FUN!!! :)

The final tip is... HAVE FUN!!

The whole point of a short film is to have fun when you're doing it. If it's not fun you should just take a deep breath and have a break. After all, if you're not having fun filming it, it won't be fun to watch later!

So get your family included and just go for it! Ready? ACTION!

