

Drawing a Ramp Course

Materials:

- Paper
- Clip Boards
- Writing/drawing utensils
- Ramp course materials (ramps, elevation materials, ect.)

Kodo Kids' TMI Design Process includes 3 phases; Think, Make, and Improve. During this invitation, challenge children to stay in the Think stage. This can be challenging. Children are visual thinkers and often need to design with their hands on the materials. Encouraging them to create a plan or design before beginning can strengthen their planning and intentionality.

Start with a small group of children and invite each of them to design their own ramp system using the clipboards and paper. Encourage them to use the materials offered in the classroom in their plans. Support children to problem solve during their design when they anticipate something may not work. Help them talk through their thinking and brainstorm solutions.

When they feel they are ready to move onto the Make stage, they can begin building the ramp course. Encourage them to refer back to their plans often. If something doesn't work they way they anticipated, invite them to problem solve. This then moves them into the Improve stage of the TMI Design Process.

Look and Listen for Learning

- Creativity
- Curiosity
- Material Properties
- Observation

Teaching Tip

- During the Make stage, children may become frustrated if their ramp course doesn't function as they had anticipated. Model how to use failures as learning opportunities. This can sound like "Wow, that didn't go as I planned. Now I get the chance to try another way!". Shifting the culture around failure can greatly improve children's persistence and perseverance by removing the negative connotation around it.