# Audio file

[Tiny Innovators Unpacking an Early Childhood Makerspace.m4a](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

# [Transcript](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Today we're diving into something pretty exciting and early learning. ECE. Steam maker spaces, early childhood education, right. It's all about sparking imagination, you know, embracing curiosity and maybe even making some wonderful creative messes. Along the way.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[The best kind of mess is.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Definitely our guide for this deep dive is the tiny innovators toolkit. It's a fantastic resource for creating these spaces. So our mission today really is to unpack what these spaces are truly about, why they're so, so important for young kids, say, ages 3 to 8.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Yeah, the key developmental window.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Exactly. And we'll get into the core principles, the practical steps that you actually bring one of these vibrant places to life. It's about empowering those little innovators.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[And it's important to remember this isn't just, you know, rearranging the furniture in a classroom in ECC maker space. It's really more than the physical space. It's a mindset. You could almost call it a movement a.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Hmm.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Movement. I like that.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Yeah, because it's designed to cultivate that curiosity. We mentioned build a real love of. Learning and equip kids with skills they absolutely need, critical thinking, collaboration, problem solving, skills for a world that's, let's face it, changing fast. The toolkit even talks about tinkering.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Hmm. Right. Temporary.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Yeah, tinkering. Plus inquiry. It's a neat way to frame the pedagogue, thinking with your hands, essentially.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[OK, so let's really unpack that. We're talking dynamic collaborative spaces, kids building, tinkering, designing, solving.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Yeah.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Problems. But what makes it so powerful specifically for these young learners?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Well, what's really remarkable is how these makerspaces foster holistic development almost naturally holistic.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[How so?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Kids aren't just say. Stacking blocks, they're making cognitive leaps. They're problem solving, sure, but they're also nurturing divergent thinking.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[OK, divergent. Thank you.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Yeah. The ability to see multiple solutions to a problem or even discover new problems, it's something often missed in more traditional settings. And then there's the social, emotional side working together, sharing ideas. They're honing fine motor skills, using tools, manipulating small parts. And language they're constantly talking about what they're doing, explaining their process.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[So it's not just play, it's it's deeply engaged learning.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Exactly. It moves beyond just simple play. It's a powerhouse for growth really across all domains.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[That holistic growth is really compelling, but let's connect the dots a bit more. How does? This you know. Seemingly playful exploration translate into those foundational steam skills science, technology, engineering, art. Math. The things we usually think of as separate subjects.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Right, that's the key question. And the beauty is it's about early exposure, but not in isolation. Kids naturally explore cause and effect. That's science, right? They use simple tools, technology, they design and build engineering. They express themselves, think about aesthetics. That's art. They notice patterns, measure things, math.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Ah.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[It all just weaves together.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Exactly. It intertwines organically. Yeah, they're reinforcing these concepts through hands on discovery. That just feels like fun. It's how they learn how to think, not just what to think.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[And that gives them a sense of agency you mentioned.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[A vital sense of agency. They own their learning.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[That paints such a clear picture of the benefits, but OK to make this happen effectively, you need a solid foundation. The toolkit outlines 11 guiding principles, which is a lot, but you've highlighted 5 crucial ones for us.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Right.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Yeah, we picked 5 that really. Form the bedrock. OK, first up and this is non-negotiable. Is developmental appropriateness.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Makes sense?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Every the activities, the materials it has to align with where the kids are cognitively, emotionally, socially, physically.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[So what does that actually look like, say for a three-year old versus A7 year old?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Good question. For preschoolers, maybe 3 to 5. Think sensory rich water, play with cups, funnels things they can pour and scoop lots of texture. For older kids, kindergarten early elementary, maybe 5:00 to 8:00. You can introduce slightly more structured challenges like can you build a bridge that holds this weight? Using recycled materials so it scales up precisely, the goal is always meeting them where they are using adapted tools like maybe loop scissors for kids still developing fine motor skills reduces frustration and builds confidence.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[It's.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Oh.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[OK, so meeting them where they are, but as we give them this freedom, this exploration safety has to be top of mind, right? How do we keep it safe?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Absolutely. Safety is paramount. The toolkit really stresses being proactive. It's not about bubble wrapping them, but creating an environment of trust where exploration can happen safely.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[So practical terms.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[For the younger ones, three to five, definitely large, non-toxic materials. Nothing they can choke on, especially since they often explore with their mouths.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Right the tasting phase.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Exactly for the 5 to 8 crowd, you could introduce real tools, but carefully safety scissors, maybe those plastic cardboard saws, low heat glue guns, but always with close adult supervision and really clear expectations about how to use them.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[So it's about teaching responsible use, not avoiding tools altogether.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Yes, empowering them, not shutting down curiosity. Regular checks on tools, good storage, first aid kit, handy. All standard but crucial.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[OK. Developmental appropriateness. Safety, what's next?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Open-ended Ness. This is huge. It means the materials, the activities, they don't have one single right outcome.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[No cookie cutter projects.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Exactly. Kids get to explore freely, make choices, express themselves in unique ways, and what's really profound about this, I think, is how it builds resilience.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Resilience. How so?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Well. It acts as a kind of antidote to perfectionism when there isn't one right answer, kids learn it's OK to try something and have it not work out. They learn to try, fail, iterate, try again. Fearlessly.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[That's a life skill right there.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Absolutely. So instead of saying, OK everyone, make a car. The invitation might be can you create something that moves or just put out a bin of loose parts, cardboard tubes, fabric scraps, bottle caps, wood bits.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Loose parts. I like that term.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Yeah, they offer infinite possibilities. The child might start building a tower, then decide it's a rocket ship. Then maybe it becomes a puppet stage. It's their ideas driving it. That's agency again.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[That open endedness that focus on process.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

[Speaker](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

[Yes.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[It feels like it naturally breaks down those walls between subjects we talked about earlier, which leads to the next principle.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[It does interdisciplinary learning. Young kids don't see the world in neat subject boxes anyway, right? They see connections everywhere, so making learning interdisciplinary just reflects how they naturally experience things.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Definitely not. Can you give an example?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Sure, think about mixing paints. A child is exploring color mixing that science understanding primary and secondary colors. But they're also painting expressing themselves. That's art. Or maybe they're stacking cups, counting them as they go. Math motor skills, language all rolled into one.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[So it's baked in.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Right for slightly older kids, maybe they design A creature for a specific habitat that brings in biology, engineering, design, and then they write or tell a story about it literacy.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[So the trick is choosing materials and prompts that invite those connections.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Exactly. Start with big questions. Real world problems. What kind of home does a bird need? Choose materials that can be used in multiple ways. Encourage kids to talk about their work. Tell stories about their creation.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[OK, makes sense. And the fifth key principle.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Inclusiveness. This is absolutely critical and inclusive makerspace. Ensures every single child feels valued, respected and truly able to participate, regardless of their ability, background, language, learning style. Everyone belongs.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Why is this so central to the makerspace idea?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Because innovation thrives on diverse perspectives. But more fundamentally, it's about equity. It removes barriers.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[How do you do that in practice?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[It means offering a variety of materials, different sizes, textures, having accessible tools, maybe some with adaptive grips. Creating quiet nooks for kids who need a sensory break from the business. Thoughtful using visual cues, gestures alongside spoken language for multilingual learners and making sure the materials, books, pictures, dolls reflect the diverse cultures and identities of the children in the group. It sends a powerful message. You belong here.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[That's.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Your ideas matter. Everyone is a maker.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[OK. Those five principles, developmental appropriateness, safety, open-ended Ness, interdisciplinary learning and inclusiveness really provide a strong framework. So with that foundation, let's talk about the space itself, the physical envy.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[They really do.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Ferment. The toolkit uses that Reggio Emilia phrase the environment as the third teacher. What does that mean in the context? Of a makerspace.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[It means the space isn't just passive background, it's an active participant in learning. It's intentionally curated, curated. How every element matters. The colors on the walls, how the furniture is arranged, how materials are displayed. It should all inspire wonder, provoke questions, encourage kids to stay engaged. It needs to feel warm, welcoming, full of possibility. It should shout. Your ideas are important here.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[To layout considerations, what should we think about?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Think openness, flexibility, good sight lines. You want kids to move freely, make choices independently, arrange furniture to avoid bottlenecks, but also create distinct. Areas. Like zones actually define zones can help organize things. Maybe a building zone with different kinds of blocks, an art zone with easels and paints, maybe a quiet tinkering zone with smaller manipulatives, a tech zone, even a deconstruction zone where kids can take old electronics apart safely.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Oh, interesting.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[But and this is key, these zones shouldn't be silos. You want to encourage kids to take materials from one zone to another into great ideas. Maybe they build something in the building zone and then paint it in the art zone.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Got it. And furniture.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Flexible is the word low tables. Kids can stand or sit. Adjustable height chairs, mobile storage units or dividers you can move around to change the space for different projects or group sizes.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[And keeping it all organized but accessible, yeah.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Yes. That's the balance open cubbies, low shelving so kids can reach materials themselves. Clear labeling is huge. Using pictures and words, maybe even in multiple languages if needed, right? It builds literacy and independence. Kids learn where things go, how to tidy up.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Right part. The process, OK, what about the actual stuff in the space, the tools, the tech? How do you balance real hands on tools with digital ones?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[It's about purpose. For tools and materials, the toolkit advocates for real tools but adapted for small hands.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Real tools like hammers.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Maybe small hammers, yes, but also things like safety scissors. Those kids. Safe hand drills with soft grips, maybe low heat glue. Guns always, always with close supervision and explicit teaching on how to use them safely.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Why real tools?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[It builds confidence, respect for tools, practical life skills, it says. We trust you for technology, the rule. With them is. Does it enhance creativity and interaction or does it replace physical play?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Good distinction.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[So think tools like B bots or programmable toys to introduce coding concepts playfully. Tablet apps like book creator for digital storytelling, where kids document their physical creations. Child safe digital microscopes for close observation.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[So tech that supports the making and discovery process.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Precisely, it shouldn't distract from the hands on exploration. It should deepen. Tools for observing, tinkering, documenting, sharing.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[And this carefully designed environment filled with these tools and materials. It then naturally supports curriculum integration, right? It's not just a maker time slot.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Exactly. It shouldn't be separate maker space. Activity should be woven into the fabric of everyday learning. Educators foster this through inquiry based learning by posing those open-ended prompts we talked about. I wonder what would happen if what do you notice about this material? How can we solve this problem? It encourages kids to ask questions, form hypothesis, test ideas, talk about. Thinking the focus is always the process, the learning journey, not just the final product.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[And those cross curricular connections just happen naturally then.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[They really do. Kids are using language to describe designs, math for measuring and patterns, science for cause and effect, social emotional skills. When collaborating on a group project and expressing themselves through the arts, it all flows together.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[OK, so we've designed this space, we've got the principles down, but keeping it vibrant, making it sustainable, that takes ongoing. Especially from the adults, which brings us to professional learning for the educators.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Absolutely crucial. Because the educators role in a makerspace is different, they're not the instructor delivering information. They're a facilitator, a Co learner, even.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[A facilitator of child LED exploration. What skills does that require?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[It requires specific facilitation strategy, things like intentional observation, really watching and listening to understand a child's thinking process. Knowing how to ask good open-ended questions, what are you trying to do? What else could you try? Would you notice?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[So guiding not directing.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Exactly. It's about knowing when to step back and let them struggle productively and when to offer just enough support just in time support to keep them moving forward without taking over. It builds their confidence, their independence.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[And the educators need a certain mindset themselves.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Yes, a maker mindset. They need to be comfortable with experimenting themselves with things, not always going to plan tolerating mess ambiguity. Seeing mistakes their own and the children's as valuable learning opportunities, modeling that curiosity and resilience is powerful.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[It really takes a village as the toolkit says, which points towards family and community engagement. How do maker Spaces bridge the gap between school and home and the wider community?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[They're a fantastic platform for that, for involving families, you can host family maker nights or weekend workshops. Let parents and kids create side by. Side it is.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[That sounds fun.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[You can also offer take home maker kits, simple materials, maybe a little challenge card. Perhaps you in a QR code linking to a short video. It helps demystify steam for parents and reinforces learning at.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Home. Strengthens that home school connection.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Definitely and community partnerships add so much richness. Collaborate with the local library. Maybe they host steam story times or have mobile maker kits partner with museums for field trips or visiting exit. Invite local artisans or tradespeople.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[You like a Carpenter or Weaver?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Exactly. Or engineers, coders, scientists from local businesses, they provide real world connections. Diverse role models show kids where these skills can lead.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[And evaluating all this, how do you know if it's working?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Metrics and evaluation super important for reflection improvement and sustainability. Regularly observing engagement, documenting learning through photos or portfolios. Maybe simple surveys for older kids. Families this data helps you adapt activities show impact to stakeholders, maybe strength and grant applications. It keeps the whole thing growing and improving.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Wow, we've really covered a lot of ground from the what and why of etc. Steam maker spaces, their benefits for kids, the guiding principles, the nitty gritty of designing the space.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Right through to the crucial roles of educators, families, and the community in making them thrive.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[It's so clear that these aren't just. Rooms with cool. Stuff they're dynamic ecosystems for building, confident, curious, capable young minds.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Exactly. Minds ready to engage creatively with whatever the future holds. It's about fostering thinkers, innovators, collaborators from the earliest ages.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[So for you listening, whether you're an educator thinking about implementing some of these ideas, or maybe a parent wanting to bring more of this spirit into your home or just someone fascinated by how we nurture creativity and critical thinking in kids, here's something to chew on. A provocative thought inspired by the. Toolkit. Think about your own daily environment. What's one single loose part in it? Maybe an object? You overlook some scrap material, maybe even a challenge or problem you're facing. How could you reimagine it? Repurpose it today, not just for its intended function, but for something new, something creative.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Yeah. And taking that a step further, how might embracing that maker mindset that willingness to experiment, to adapt to see new possibilities in the everyday? How might that transform how you approach a challenge you're currently grappling with? Could reframing it unlock a new solution?](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)

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[Lots to think about, keep exploring, keep creating, and keep innovating. We'll see you on the next deep dive.](https://thecsu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hseitz_calstate_edu/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/Tiny%20Innovators%20Unpacking%20an%20Early%20Childhood%20Makerspace.m4a)