

# Print & Play

## WHAT

Print & Play is a method that allows children to use their own creativity by using printable character sheets. The sheets can be cut into single characters and objects that can then be arranged in different orders to build scenes for stories, stop motion animation productions or other forms of art. Consider also making large collages where multiple children are creating the same work.

## WHY

Print & Play is a good method to ignite creativity especially with children that might struggle with engaging in new and unfamiliar activities. The teacher / parent can precut printed objects, but consider leaving all stages to the child since motoric skills are also important.

Familiar characters from apps, shows or games are also great to build investment and engagements towards to work the child is doing to make creativity even more exciting. Premade characters also often remove some pressure when multiple children collaborate. A simple format (print, cut & place) of Print & Play is a great and stress free way to get started with creative activities with children.

## WHO

Teachers and parents can prepare different materials and prints they feel are appropriate for the current age and level. Fully colored, ready backgrounds, fully cut elements are the easiest to start with, but at the same times limits the creative opportunities. A freer and more open approach is more demanding, but allows more creative freedom.

Students should (based on level and age) start work individually and when they become more comfortable with the approach, practice working in groups as well and create print & play together.

## HOW

A great way to get started is to first play the Alt-Er app and let the children explore freely. After that the same characters can be printed here ([LINK](#)). You can choose full colour or black and white models based on if you'd like the children to also color the characters. There are also backgrounds available, but children can also create their own.

Prepare the prints (cut ready, if necessary/if you prefer that), have coloring tools (pens etc), glue and blank papers ready. Children can start by selecting the background and then start fitting the printed (and coloured) characters.

Reminder: Don't glue the characters if you are doing a stop animation with the characters and backgrounds.

Please allow creative freedom to the child whenever possible since there are no right or wrong with this type of work. Consider giving a theme or an objective if you feel the children would benefit from more structure.

## WHEN

The activity works with very small children all the way to 1-2 grade. With very young children consider using laminated and more robust ready cut characters and when the motoric skills are develop you can move towards children making everything from scratch.

With ready made resources the activity can take up to 45 minutes just with static, glued, print and play artworks, but with children making everything from the beginning, you should leave 45 minutes for preparations like cutting and such and another 45 minutes for drawing backgrounds, colouring and setting up the scene.