Are you curious about how things work? Do you like to come up with new ways to do things? Then you have what it takes to be an inventor!

curious: if you are curious, you want to learn or know more.
Inventors come up with all kinds of cool things. Sarah Mather invented a telescope for submarines. An engineer named Lonnie George Johnson *developed* a really great water squirter!

*developed*: when you develop something, you make something new.
Think of all those fun video games you and your friends play. They may never have existed if a guy named Allan Alcorn hadn't created the very first video game ever.
If you want to be an inventor, find something that needs improvement. Say you’d like to sleep late on weekends, but you can’t because your dog wants breakfast. Inventing a way to feed your dog without waking up would be a big improvement!

improvement: when you improve something, you make it better.
Before you get started, it's important to start with a **plan**. Having a plan helps you figure out what to do. Think through your plan and then draw or write it down.

**plan**: when you have a plan, it means you have something in your mind to do. A plan is how you will do it.
Once you have a plan for your invention, you may have to experiment with different materials. If your first attempt doesn't work, don't worry. You can always try again.

**experiment**: when you experiment, you do tests to find something out. You try different things and see what happens.

**materials**: material is what something is made from.

**attempt**: to attempt means to try.
Inventors know that making mistakes is part of the process. They keep on trying until they are able to **produce** an invention that works.

**produce**: when you produce something, it means you make it.
In time, you'll have an invention that does what you envisioned, even if how it does it is different than what you originally planned.

envisioned: when you envision something, it means you picture it in your mind or imagine it.
Of course, if you **succeed** in inventing something really great, it may be so much fun that your dogs will ask to see it again and again. Because everybody loves a really good invention!

*succeed*: when you succeed, you are able to do it in the end.