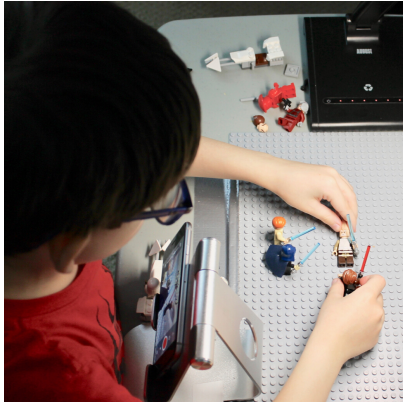# Artful Isolation Activities
## Week Two: Stop Motion Animation

Create a captivating short story, by bringing toys and other objects to life.

What is Stop Motion Animation? Stop motion is a form of animation that is created by photographing physical objects one frame at time, with the objects being moved incrementally between frames. When you play back the sequence of images rapidly, it creates the illusion of movement.*

Why Stop Motion Animation? For years, our Northern Artistic Director, Judy McNaughton, has created movement in her artworks using stop motion animation and robotics. You can see some examples on her website. Judy was eager to engage her seven year old son, Xavier, in a creative project during this extra time at home and decided to see where his curiosity might lead him. While watching an animated Lego video, Xavier asked "what makes the Legos move?" This was her chance! They watched DIY animation videos together and found an easy stop motion app for her phone. Xavier was soon immersed, making lego reenactments of his favourite *Star Wars* scenes to send to family and friends.
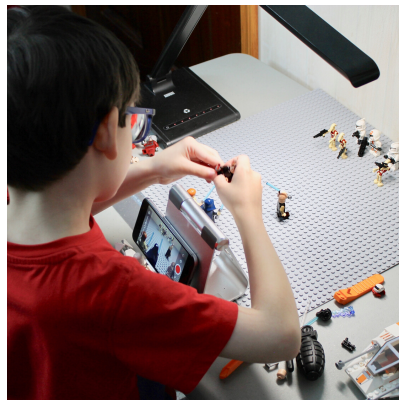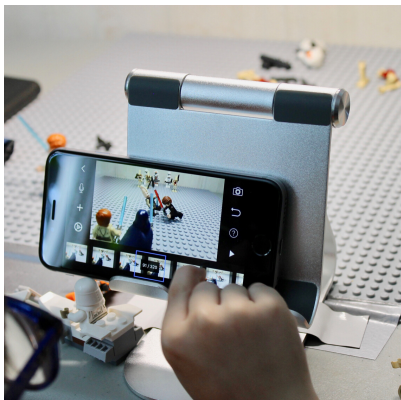
*https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/what-is-stop-motion-animation/

Suitable For: Ages 6+ (the stop motion app is simple to use but young ones will need help at first).

What You'll Need: A device capable of taking photos (phone, tablet, camera, etc.), a lamp, and something to hold the phone still (phone stand, or anything to lean the phone on, and duct tape).

Getting Ready:
- Watch some stop motion videos and DIY tutorials to help inspire you. You can check out Xavier's videos here and here and here, or watch some of our other favourite videos here and here and here. Great DIY tutorials can be found here and here. Each family member may find inspiration in different examples.
- Any objects can be used in stop motion animation, such as play dough, toys, ornaments, or even vegetables (think Mr Potato Head). What do you have on hand? What kinds of items would be fun or interesting to use? What has meaning for you? Feel free to use anything that can be posed and repositioned in an appearance of motion.
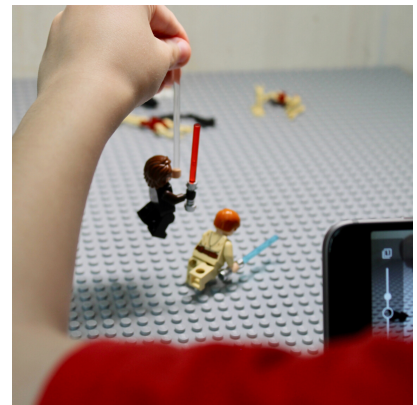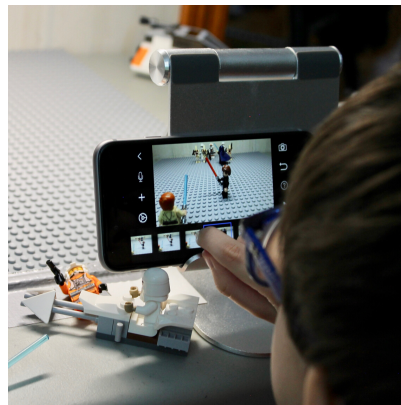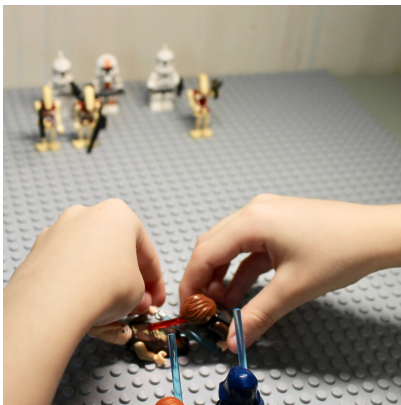
Activity:
- Download an app like *Stop Motion Studio*, free in the App Store or on Google Play.
- Create a set with a floor and backdrop. It may be as simple as a small table pushed up against a wall. Find a lamp for a light source. This will keep the lighting consistent over time. Find a way to prop up your camera with a good vantage point of the scene. Be sure to keep it secure so your video doesn't wobble (duct tape is your friend).
- Start small. Experiment with the camera and a couple of objects, reposition them slightly between photos. Take a few frames and then play it back. Do you see the objects move? Try out some of the editing features to get familiar with the app.
- Finish your video and be proud of your first stop motion animation!

Reflection:
- What was the mood of your video: Funny? Tragic? Woeful? Silly? How did the choice of materials and objects affect the mood or meaning? Find the editing tool to speed up or slow down the action (changing the number of frames per second). How does this change the mood of the video?
- Share the finished product with a friend or family member. Ask them questions like: How did this make you feel? What did you notice?
- Did your viewer react like you expected? How could you change the scene to alter the feeling or reaction it creates in people? Recreate it using different materials, colours, placement of objects, or try something completely new. Experiment and have fun with it!
- Share your videos and photos of your process with us via Facebook or Instagram. Be sure to tag **@skcommonweal** and use the hashtags **#cwstopmotion** and **#cwneighbours**.