



## Young Inventors Worksheet - Getting An Idea

Prepared by Susan Casey, author of *Kids Inventing! A Handbook for Young Inventors* and *Women Invent! Two Centuries of Discoveries That Have Shaped Our World*  
[www.susancaseybooks.com](http://www.susancaseybooks.com)

### STEP 1: Brainstorm Ideas with a Friend

**Brainstorming, noun.** To engage in or organize shared problem solving.

Many inventors, old and young, engage in brainstorming as a way of thinking. They throw around crazy ideas. Then some of them don't seem so crazy after all. Ideas are not predictable. One idea can lead to a very idea. Get together with your friends. Throw ideas around for INVENTIONS YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE. See what brainstorming brings to you. WRITE DOWN A FEW OF YOUR IDEAS:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

### STEP 2 – Think About Easier Ways To Do Ordinary Tasks.

Do you or others in your family have jobs around the house? List a few.	What problems come up in doing these jobs? List them.	What would make the jobs easier to do? List your ideas.	Any invention ideas? Make a list.

### STEP 3 –Combine Common Items

List TEN THINGS you see in your house or at school. For example, a cd, a fork, a battery, a paper clip, a ladder. 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____	Pick two or more items from your list to create something NEW—i.e., a ladder with wheels. Make a sketch!
---	--

**STEP 4- Think of Ideas for the Home**

Go from room to room in your house. Brainstorm ideas as you look at items in the kitchen, the bathroom, the den, the bedroom, or the garage. What could you invent to make life easier or more convenient in these rooms?

Room \_\_\_\_\_ Ideas \_\_\_\_\_

Kitchen

Bathroom

Den

Bedroom

Garage

**STEP 5 –Think about people and their needs when looking for ideas.**

Think about the needs of these people:	What do they have trouble doing? Controlling?	What would help them with the problems?	Any invention ideas?
Babies			
Toddlers			
People in wheelchairs			
Kids who play sports			
Blind or deaf people			
Older people			

**STEP 6 – Think of Inventions that Could Help Society**

	What are the problems?	What would make the situation better?	What invention would help?	Any ideas for inventions?
Environment- Air or water pollution, bugs				
Safety –at home or at school or on the street				
Natural Disasters- Fire, Flood, Hurricanes, Windstorms, Snowstorms				