

LAKELAND INVENT IDAHO

Step 2:

Now that you have found problems, and maybe even began thinking of new innovative ways to solve them, it is time to research your concepts. It is important to not only find out if your invention has already been thought of by someone else, but also to make sure you understand the problem itself in more detail. Research involves more than just the computer, it involves talking to people, even experts in the field. Remember to research more than one problem so you are confident you have chosen your largest area of impact!

What can you do at home to help?

Support networking with experts and consumers: Have conversations with your child about their problem and solution idea. Have them ask adults and/or children who may be affected by this problem about their experiences. Take a moment to research some companies who work in similar fields and help your child send an email to their customer service contact.

Support data research: Can your child prove this is a real problem? Are there charts and graphs online you can share with them and have them write a summary of what they learn? Help your child run an informal survey regarding their problem or solution. This could be as simple as asking 20 people the same questions and tallying the results.

Check if your product is already in production or if the idea has been patented:

- Use shopping websites, such as Amazon.com, to analyze other products that are similar to your idea. Identify how some of these are similar to your product as well as how your product is different.
- <https://www.google.com/?tbs=pts&safe=active&ssui=on>
Support your child in searching google patents by describing their inventions in multiple ways. Analyze how their idea is similar to those already patented and how it is innovative and new.