

Read this first

Ask before you explain. Explain only after they've tried.

The superhero stamp

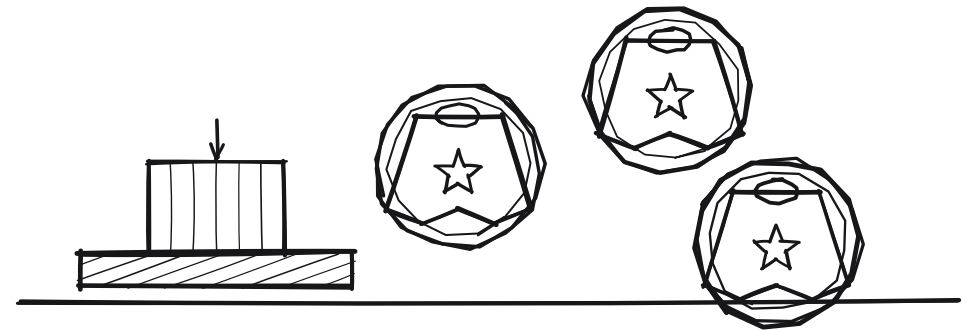
Mirror images and relief printing

Say	"You get to decide who earns a superhero stamp. First you have to make it."
Ask first	"If you press an R into the stamp, how will it look on paper?"
After: explain	A stamp works like a mirror: whatever is on its face comes out back to front. So letters and numbers have to be made reversed. Also, only the raised parts touch the paper, which is why the lines pressed into the foam stay white.
Look around	Feel the raised picture on a coin. It was pressed by a metal die with the picture carved back to front.
Did you know	Around the year 1040, Bi Sheng in China printed with movable clay type, about 400 years before Gutenberg's press in Europe.
Close with	"Who will you stamp first, and why?"

Scissors are for older kids or grown-ups; potato cutting is grown-ups only. Use washable markers or paint, and cover the table with newspaper.

Make a superhero stamp

A craft to start your collection, 30 minutes, ages 8 to 13



After every game, the kids decide who gets a stamp.

Grown-ups: start on the back page.



Find these around the house

Clean packaging foam works best. No knife needed.

1 clean foam tray or packaging foam	1 blunt pencil	4 bottle caps or corks
1 glue	3 washable markers	1 scrap paper to test

How it works

- 1 Each person designs their own hero mark.
- 2 Make one stamp per person. It takes about 30 minutes.
- 3 After every Playin30 game, the kids stamp the grown-ups' card, and the grown-ups stamp theirs.



Our superhero stamp card

One stamp per game. Write the date underneath.

			
_____	_____	_____	_____
			
_____	_____	_____	_____
			
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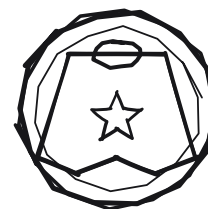
Our superhero stamp card

One stamp per game. Write the date underneath.

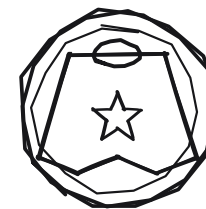
			
			
			
			
			

Design your hero mark

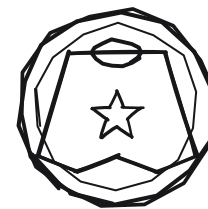
10 minutes



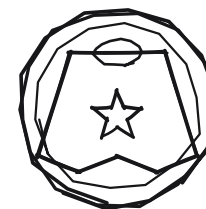
Super Dad



Super Mum



Super Kid



Super Grandparent

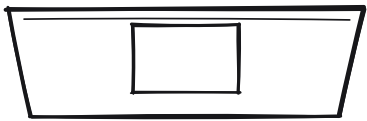
Puzzle first: you press the letter R into the stamp. What does the print look like?

R → **?**

Try it on scrap paper before you decide!

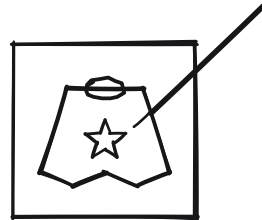
The foam stamp

1



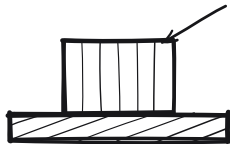
Cut a square of foam, a bit bigger than a bottle cap

2



Press your design in hard with a blunt pencil

3



Glue a bottle cap on the back as a handle

4



Colour the front with marker and press it on paper

The lines you press in stay white. Everything you did not press takes the colour.

Levels

■□□ Make one stamp for yourself



■ ■ □ Make one for every person in the family

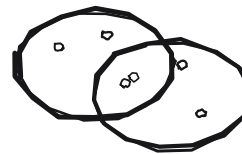


■ ■ ■ Make a two-colour stamp



The potato stamp

1



A grown-up cuts a potato in half

2



Draw your design; the grown-up cuts away the background

3



Pat it dry, paint it, press it

Potato stamps work best with poster paint or an ink pad. Markers slip on the wet surface.

Step 3 Stamp time

1

The kids decide whether a grown-up earned a stamp tonight, and the grown-ups decide for the kids.

2

Say one reason out loud: "Because you didn't check your phone once."

3

Stamp the card, then write the date and the game.