

## Learning possibilities

**Text:** Spires, A 2014, *The most magnificent thing*, Kids Can Press Ltd, Toronto.

### Engage

- Step 1. Gather your child/children for a story using the song, 'If you want to hear a story'.
- Step 2. Encourage your child/children to predict what the story is about from the cover.
- Step 3. Read the story or watch the video using the link in the Resources box and encourage your child/children to join in.
- Step 4. Here are some questions to ask your child/children about the story.
1. Who is the little girl's assistant? (the dog)
  2. How do you think she feels when she keeps trying and her plans still don't work? (upset)
  3. What does she do when things don't work? (she works harder and faster)
  4. Why do we measure things?

### Resources

#### Song

'If you want to hear a story'

(Tune: 'If you're happy and you know it')

If you want to hear a story, come sit down,

If you want to hear a story, come sit down.

Let's share a great big smile, as we read and talk a while,

It's time to hear a story, come sit down.

#### Video

*The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires (YouTube, Mr. Paulson Reads)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UM8oN4yzJqw>

### Respond

Invite your child/children to share their understanding of the meanings of the rare words in the story, e.g. "I wonder what this word means?"

Rare word	Synonym	Rare word	Synonym
magnificent	wonderful	pounces	jumps, leaps, attacks
admires	likes, respects	growls	snarl, bark, howl, yap
tinker	fix, play with	chews	chomps, eats
hammers	strikes, hits	tugs	yanks, pulls
measures	works out the size of things	wags	shakes, moves from side to side
smooths	presses, flattens out	wrenches	jerks, twists, pulls
fiddles	plays with, fixes		

### Extend

- This is a delightful story to retell with your child/children. Encourage them to use lots of expression in their voices and on their faces as the little girl in the story becomes more and more frustrated when the outcomes of her creative work don't match her planning. Talk about how it feels when things don't go the way you want. Talk about the importance of 'having a go' and 'trying again'. Help your child/children to identify coping strategies for frustrating moments and model ideas, for example: 'When I can't make something work I ...'
- Add items to the tinkering table such as rulers and tape measures, clipboards, paper and pencils to support dramatic play. These play props can also be used to support outdoor play to make an obstacle course, a play space, or as part of dramatic play in your sandpit or garden.
- You could set up a 'fix it' shop or your child/children could make a mystery object and the family has to guess what it is and what it does.