

# Stop Motion Time-Lapse Videos

This is so much fun! The possibilities are endless!

In stop motion animation, a series of photographs are taken of an object in slightly different positions or of a scene that changes, or a combination of both. Viewing the photographs in quick sequence creates the appearance of motion, like a flip book. A popular use for stop motion animation is to make mini videos starring your favourite toys.

## Supplies:

- ◆ Smart phone, iPad, or camera. Be sure to have memory space for lots of photos.
- ◆ Tripod or stand will help as you need to keep the camera from jiggling.
- ◆ Stop motion app - the free version of Stop Motion Studio is very easy to use and edit. (See an overview at [cateater.com](http://cateater.com)) **OR** Download your photographs to a slideshow program - [Adobe Spark Slideshow Maker](#) (free) or Microsoft Power Point. This method is slower but works well. Place one photo per slide in the order in which you took them. Under "transition" set the time between slides to .25 or .5 seconds for all the slides. Now you are ready to watch time fly by.
- ◆ Tri-fold display board or plain sheet to create a blank backdrop for your scenery.
- ◆ Collection of objects to animate, small toys, Lego, figurines - things that can stand on their own without support work best. You can create characters from plasticine, pipe cleaners, or paper. Draw, paint, colour or combine all of the above.

## Steps:

- ◆ Create a stage - in a quiet spot, near a window for good light, set up the backdrop. Choose a place that can be left undisturbed for a few days.
- ◆ Set up the camera, iPad or smart phone in a stand or on a tripod - it needs to be stable.
- ◆ Let the children explore and experiment for some time. They will soon discover small movements and lots of photos work best. Play the video or slide show back often so they can see their progress. Take time to create a story or recreate a familiar one. Having a storyline to follow helps plan the shots and prepare the props. Remember to backup the video often.

## Time-Lapse Photography

Stop motion is a simple way to create time-lapse videos. Time-lapse photography lets us see the beauty in things that change slowly. It lets us speed up time, allowing us to look at things happening around us that we seldom see, such as a flower opening or the moon travelling across the sky for example. Time-lapse videos are created from a series of still images, usually taken over time - a few seconds, hours, days or even years.

Take this project outside. Record the first snowfall as it covers your yard or street. Capture a snowman forming, or melting, or both. Track the sun by recording the movement of a shadow over a day. Repeat this one a few weeks later to see the earth's seasonal tilt. Make a trail of footprints appear one at a time. Record a growing icicle or a shrinking puddle. Film the changes in your garden, neighbourhood or your favourite green space over a year. There is a lot happening out there just waiting for you to record it.

**TIP:** It is important that every photo is taken from exactly the same place and angle to make movement from photo to photo smooth. Use something permanent like a log, porch railing, or windowsill to help keep your device in exactly the same place for projects shot over many sessions.