



GOING MENTAL FOR RENTAL

Think of new ways of doing things.

The best businesses are always thinking of alternative ways to do things. For example, in this webisode, Singh's Sports is saved from closing its doors thanks to a new business plan. In addition to selling sports equipment, the shop will now rent some out as well.

Motivate kids to be flexible thinkers.

Ask kids: How did creative thinking (looking at something in a new way) help club members save Mr. Singh's sports business? Why is it important to come up with new ways to do things?

Look for new solutions to problems.

Just because something doesn't work out the first time doesn't mean you should give up. Encourage kids to be creative problem solvers by finding different ways to do something or coming up with new ideas. Talk about how creative thinking involves taking risks, experimenting, and even failing. But remind kids that we all make mistakes—and we can learn from them.

Activities:

1. Turn “trash” into treasure. Ask kids to bring in some old and unused things from their homes (with permission from their parents). You may also wish to bring in a few items. Then, challenge kids to come up with new uses for the old things. You'll be teaching kids to think critically, save money, and help the environment. For instance, bottle caps can double as checker pieces, and an empty cereal box can be turned into a magazine holder.
2. Like business managers, inventors constantly think of new ways to do things. Invite kids to invent a new product, like a robot that cleans bedrooms or a car that flies. Have kids draw a picture of their invention. Create an Invention Museum in your club meeting space so your young inventors can display their creations and explain how they work. Then, encourage kids to develop a business around their creations and enter the “Grow Your Own Business Challenge”!

Tip: Encourage kids to become creative thinkers with the ability to generate new ideas for things or to view objects or situations in alternative ways. For instance, before you watch the next webisode, ask kids what sorts of questions you might ask—or activities you might complete—*before* watching to enhance the experience. Consider creating your own webisode-watching tradition.

