



How to...



Try making your own film

Create a story using sound, video and imagination.

On 18 June, the second Children's International Film Festival (CIFF) is taking place in Hastings, England. It will feature films made by children aged eight to 16 from the UK, US, Thailand, Ukraine, Germany and other countries. Young filmmakers can join in with workshops focused on particular topics, such as sound effects. *The Week Junior* will present the Star of the Year award, which young filmmaker Jonny Hines from Kingston upon Thames, England, won last year.

You don't need fancy equipment to try filming – an adult's smartphone or digital camera will work. You could film the wildlife in your garden and tell the viewer what you're seeing, like David Attenborough, or try writing a short play and getting friends to act the parts. It could be a comedy or a drama on something you care about. You can film it all in one go, or film "scenes" individually. CIFF has put together this guide, with four tips for shooting (making) a film.



Jonny Hines

IN MOTION
In the US, people call films movies, which is short for moving pictures.



Plan with a storyboard

A storyboard is like a comic strip. You fill the boxes with pictures of a film's action in stages, with spoken words if you want. For example, the first box could show a house. In the next, a door is open and a person is walking down the path. The third could look out from the house at the person greeting someone at the gate. The storyboard shows you the actions you need to film and where to film them from.

Do a sound check

Stop and listen before filming. How much noise do you notice? If you are beside a busy road or a neighbour is mowing the lawn, you could change your filming location, or wait for a quieter time. You can improve sound by using a separate microphone, if you have access to one. Do a sound check – film while doing a quick count to 10 out loud and then play it back. If it sounds good, you're ready to shoot.



Look closely at your lighting

Filming in natural light is best. However, sunny days can create dark shadows too. Try to keep the light even by filming with the Sun behind you, not behind your subject (what you're filming). Shadows can be filled in by using a home-made reflector. You need a large piece of cardboard (part of a box would work) covered in tin foil. Use it to reflect the sunlight back onto your subject. Aaaaand... action!

If in doubt, cut it out

If you're not happy with what you've filmed, you can delete and start again or cut parts of your film. There are some great free editing apps accessible on phones and tablets, which help you stitch bits of footage together. Ask an adult to help you find one. Keep viewers interested by including key action only. Play back what you've filmed to check it. You can always cut or add footage. That's a wrap!



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