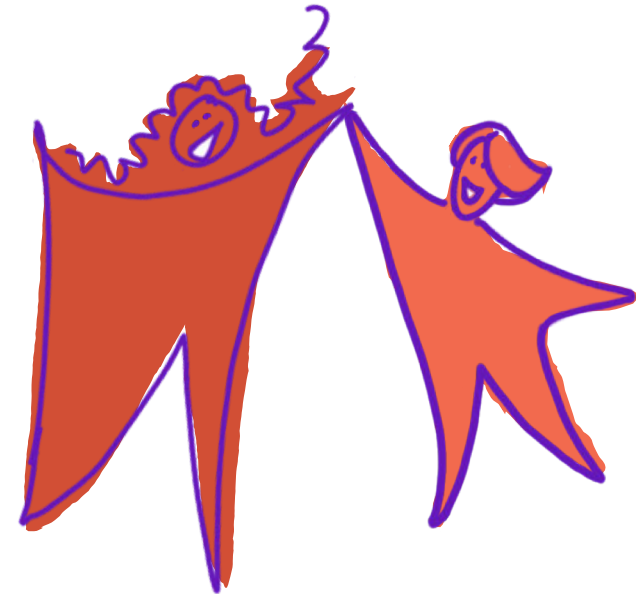




Join us for a true story of getting unstuck—and then unleash your own UNSTICKER superpowers!

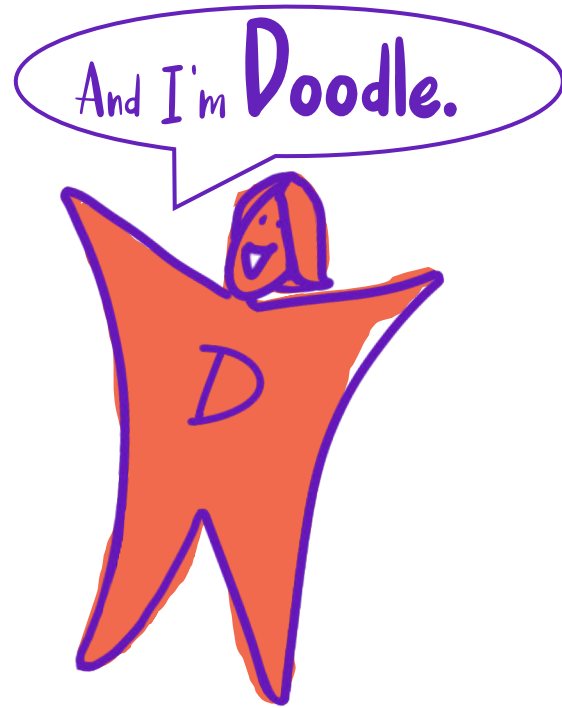
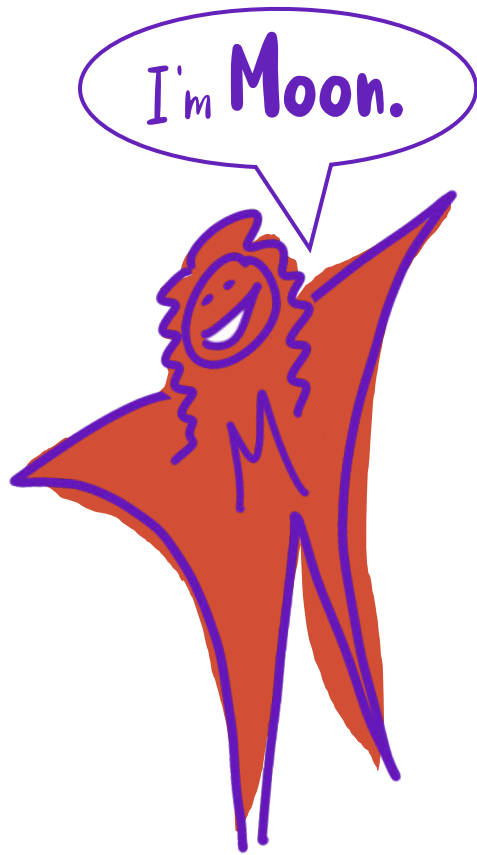
[innovatorscompass.org](http://innovatorscompass.org)

# THE UNSTICKER SISTERS



## And the BATTLE of the BRICKS!

Ela Ben-Ur | Dalia Katz | Maia Katz



We're also...

We're sisters.

and dessert—

and making stuff—

We like books—

and jokes—

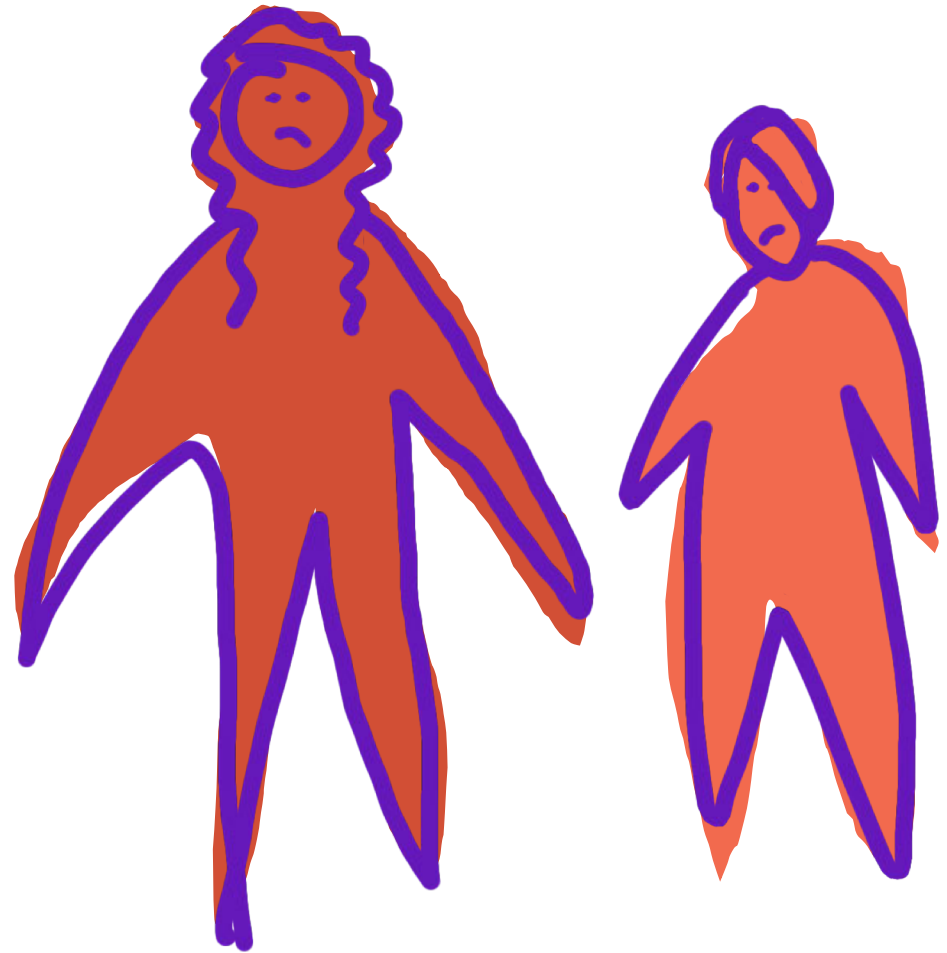
with little bricks!

# STUCK.

Yes, stuck. Just like  
**everyone gets stuck.**  
**Every day.**

**What's happening? Why?**  
you ask.

Well, let's go back to before our stuck started...



We built with bricks every chance we got.

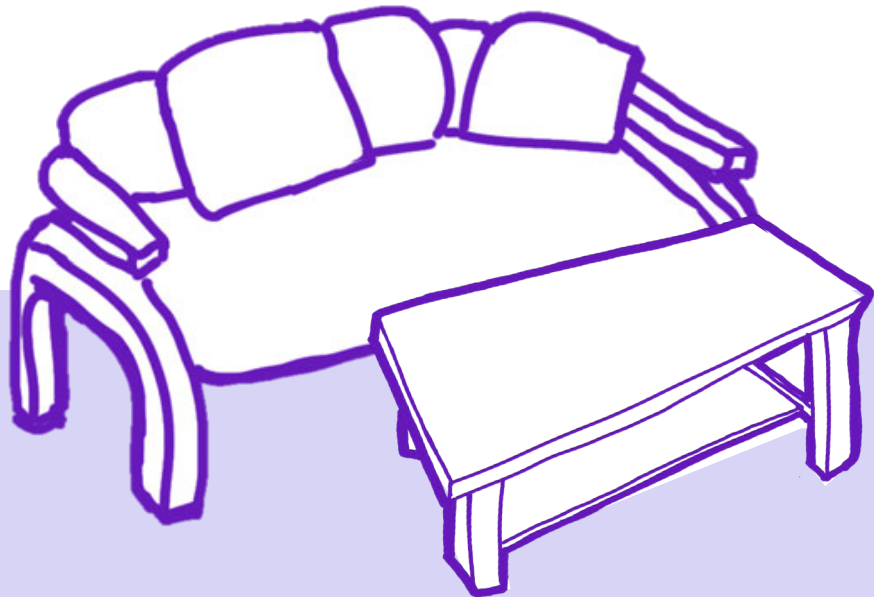
Our heads hummed with ideas.

Our fingers flew to make them.

Sometimes as a team.

Sometimes side by side.

We made and played, played and made,  
camped out on the living room carpet.



Look at our terrific towers!

Creative cottages!

Beautiful bakeries!

Ridiculous robots!

I use lots of white, 'cuz my  
middle name is Light!

I use all the colors that  
glow, 'cuz my middle name  
is Rainbow!

Buildings, unfinished bits, and little bricks spread out around us...then spread some more.

**That's when our stuck started.**

**We went in ways that seemed fast but were actually SLOW.**



**We went in CIRCLES** with our parents.

**We went NOWHERE.** Literally.



We got a feeling that things **weren't great,**  
**or getting better, for all of us.**

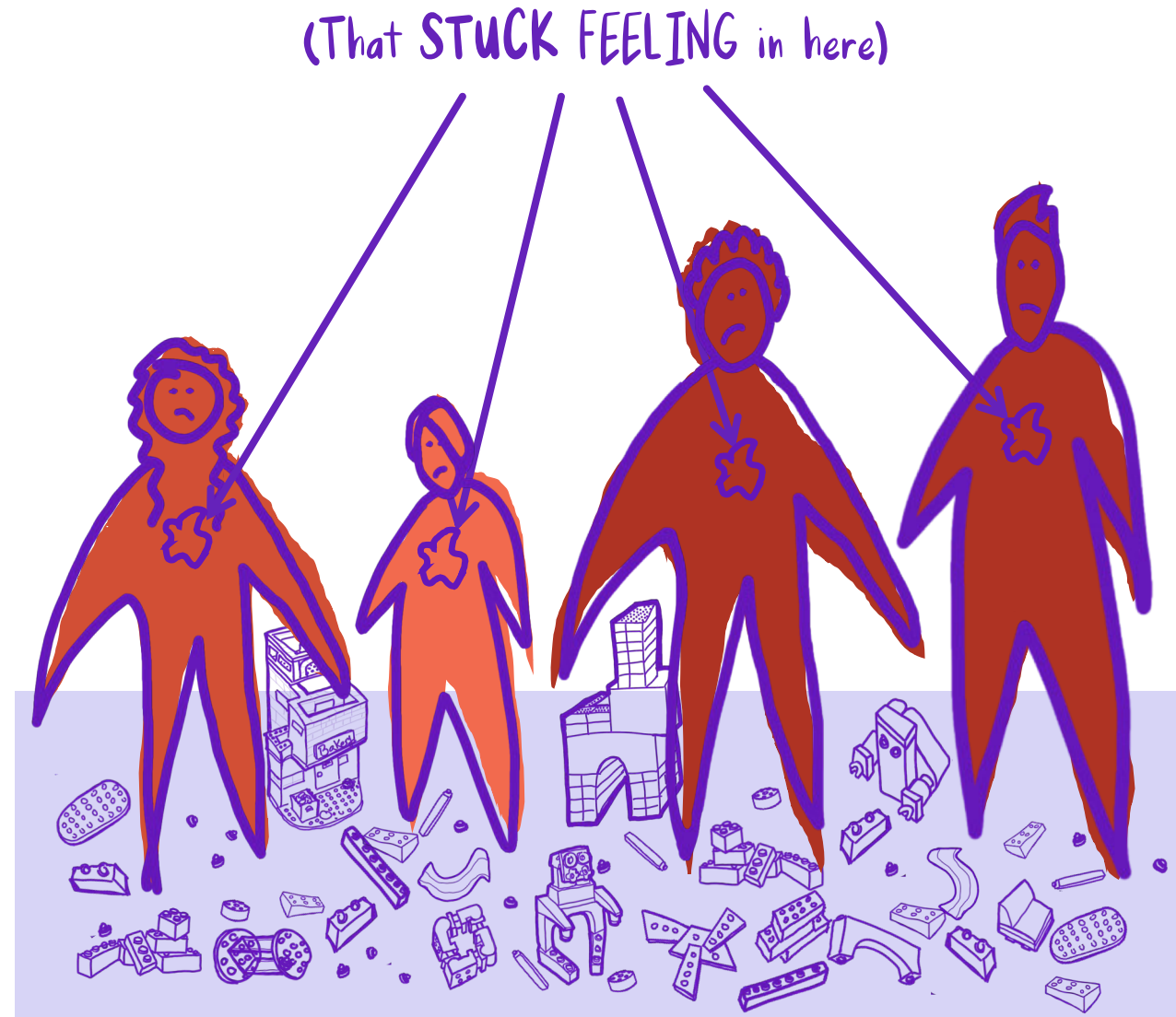
That's **STUCK.**

But we didn't want to see our stuck—  
or even each other.

That could feel even worse, or  
take time away from playing...couldn't it?

So our heads and hands kept going,  
hoping the stuck would fix itself.

But it didn't. It just got **bigger.**



Then we remembered!

We're all

# UNSTICKERS!

We can pull out that stuck,  
to where we can explore it  
with questions that unleash  
**superpowers everyone has.**

Yes, everyone.

That's when we started **unsticking.**

**We got in a circle together.**





# We got curious about our stuck.

UPSIDES...

PROUD OF  
AWESOME  
BUILDINGS



FUN MAKING  
AND PLAYING  
WITH THEM!

...THEN DOWNSIDES

BRICKS SPREADING,



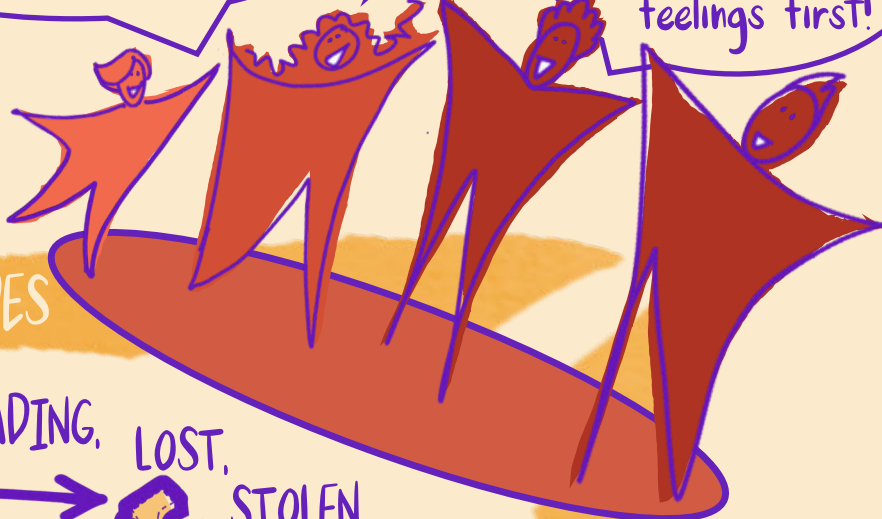
LOST,  
STOLEN,  
OUCH!

'CUZ CLEANING UP FEELS TOUGH?

What's  
happening? Why?

Let's use our  
**Observations!**

Yeah, zoom in  
for real details—  
feelings first!



We got clear about it.

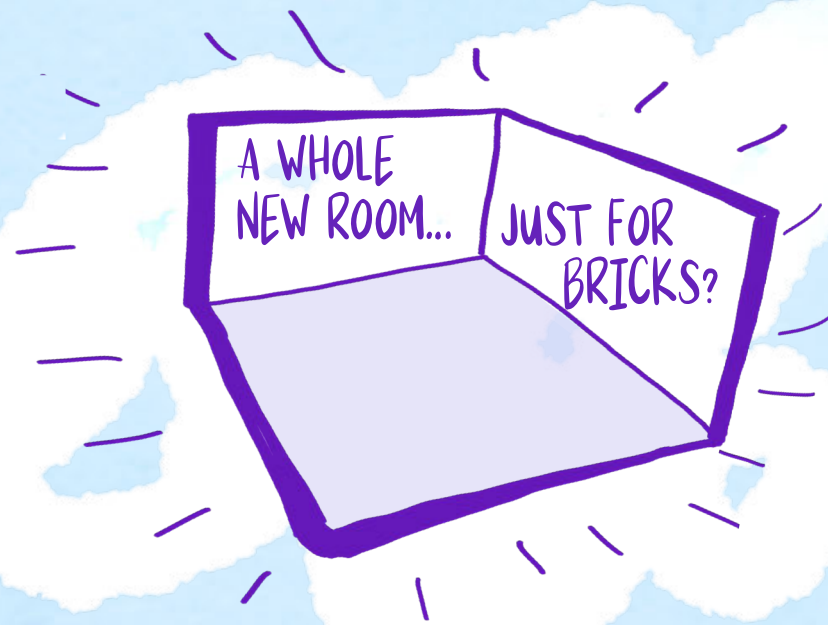
LOVE EACH OTHER  
and their  
CREATIONS!

PERFECT CLEANING?  
BRICKS OFF THE  
FLOOR, FAST!

KEEP IT  
**PUN!**



**We got creative about it.**

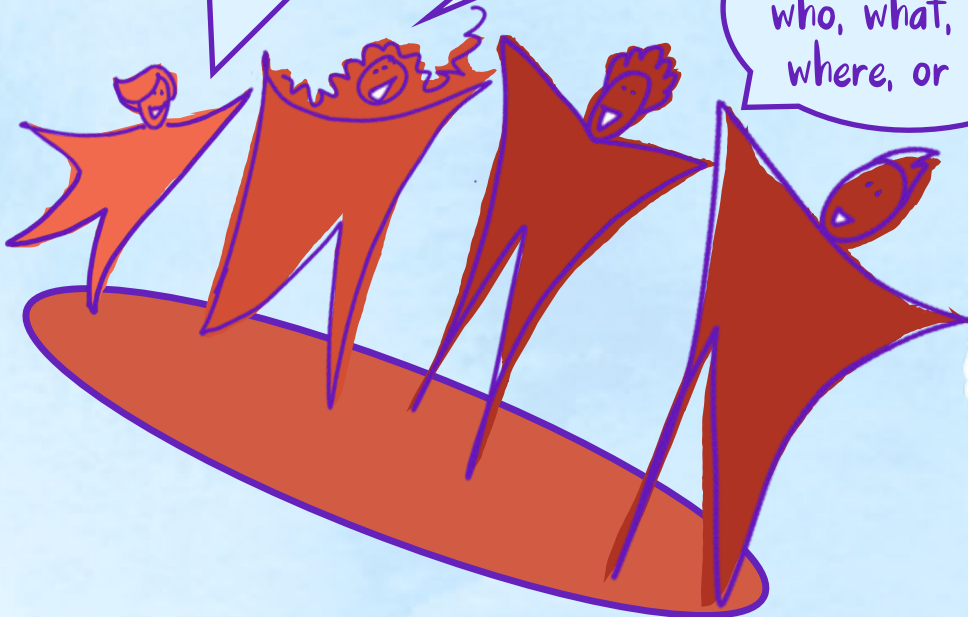


OR FIND ROOM...  
UNDER HERE?

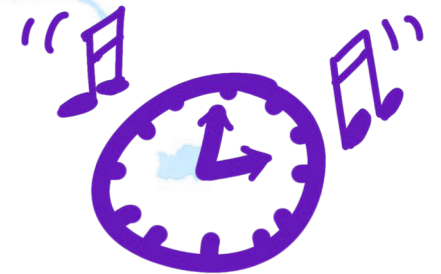
What ways  
are there  
to do what matters?  
Let 'em fly!

Let's use our  
**Ideas!**

Sure, see a new  
who, what, when,  
where, or how!



CATCHY SAYINGS LIKE  
“ PERMISSION  
AND PICTURES  
BEFORE TAKING APART ”



DAILY CLEANUP  
WITH MUSIC!

# We got courageous about it.

What's a step to try?

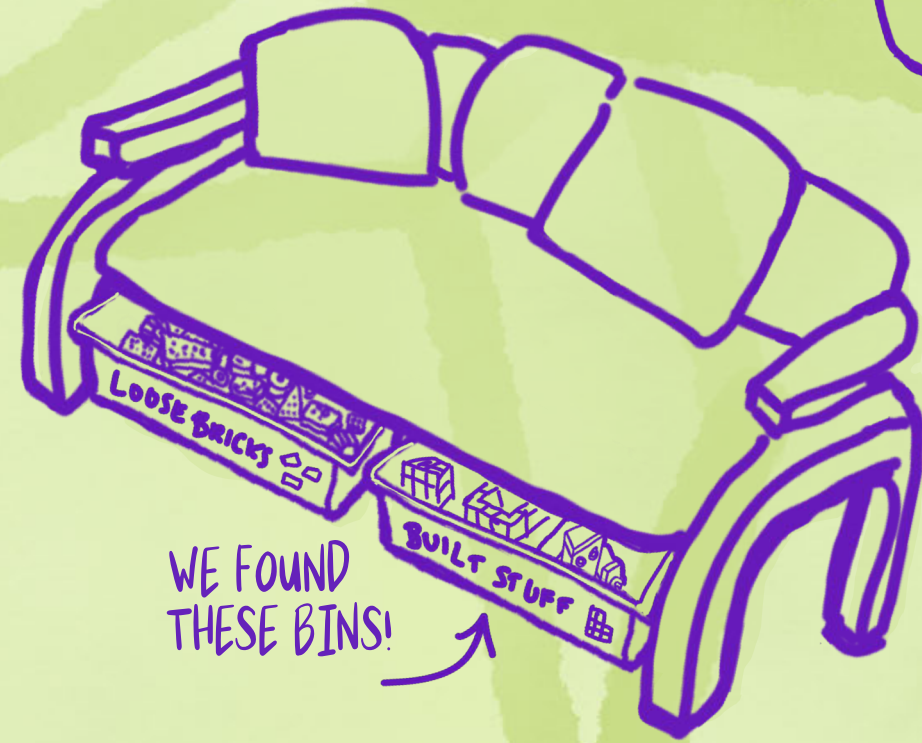
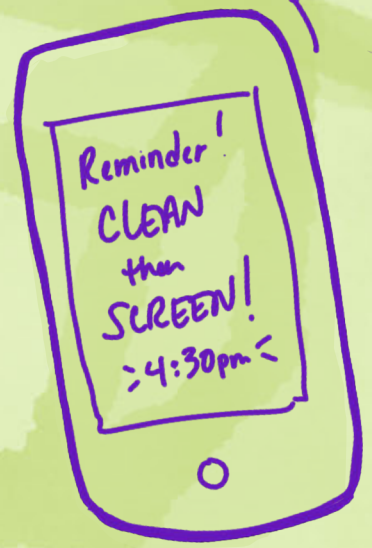
Let's use our Experiments!

OK! Pick an idea, zoom back down for details that make it real...and DO IT!



Get curious again!  
Will clean-up feel fast and fun? Let's see what happens in a week!

WE SET A MUSICAL REMINDER BEFORE SCREEN TIME EVERY DAY!

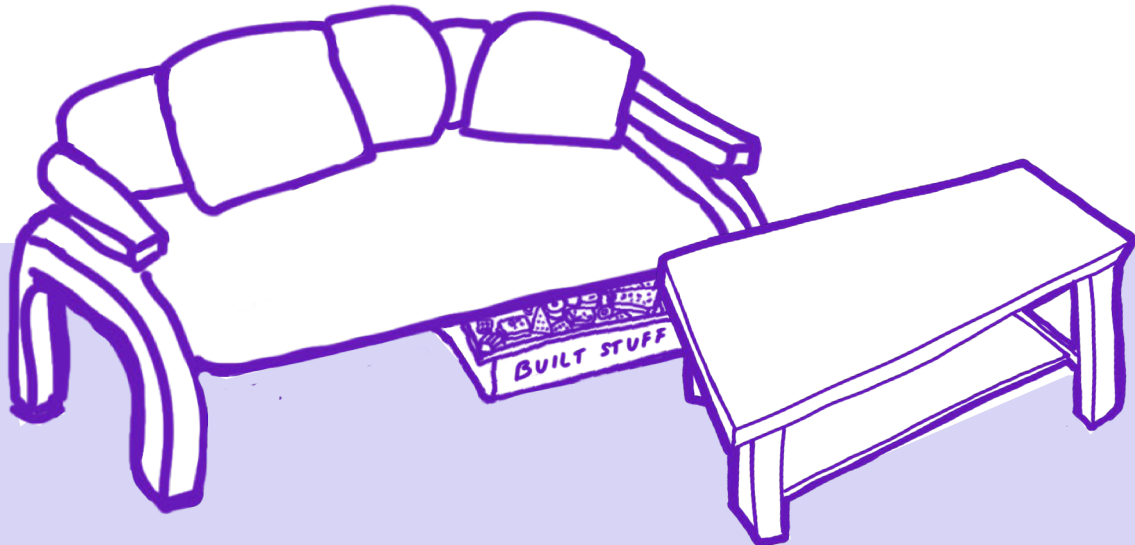


WE FOUND THESE BINS!

We got moving with each question until...

We got **UNSTUCK!**

Oh yeah? **What happened?**  
you ask again.



Well, we tried those experiments and there was...



It worked! For a while. Until it didn't.  
The mess, nagging, and fighting came back.

So here we are now.

Feeling that things aren't great,  
or getting better, for all of us, again.

That's

**STUCK.** Again.

Wait. What's that you say?

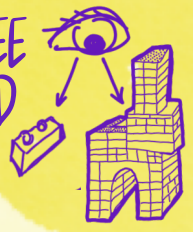
**Yes!** You're right...



# ...Unsticking IS EASIER than staying stuck!

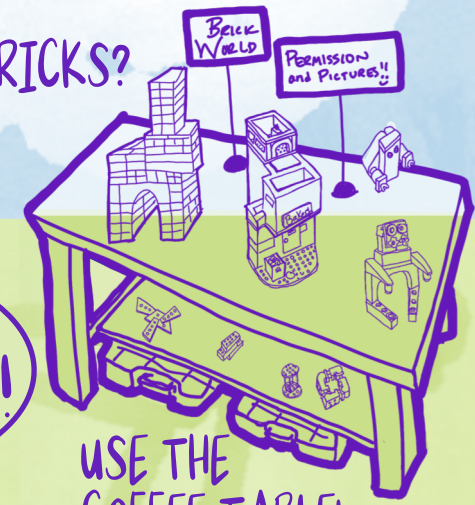
We found another **Principle!**

EASY TO SEE  
PIECES AND  
PROJECTS



Here are more **Ideas!**

A "PLAY AND  
DISPLAY" TABLE!  
SORT BRICKS?



USE THE  
COFFEE TABLE!

LET'S UNSTICK AGAIN!

Oooh, our next **Experiment!**

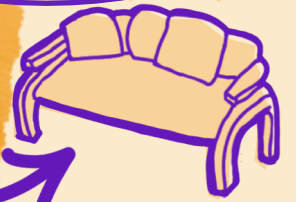
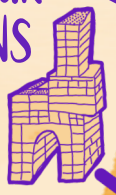
RAINBOW  
ORDER  
FOR FUN!



AND THESE  
TOOL CASES!

Start with our new **Observations!**

SEEING OUR  
CREATIONS  
INSPIRES  
US!



...BUT THEY'RE  
HIDDEN HERE.

PIECES ARE  
STILL HARD  
TO FIND.



DOWNSIDERS

UPSIDES



These experiments are still working! Woohoo!

We know we'll get stuck again,  
with our bricks or in anything we do.

**That's OK.**





Stuck happens.

**We just have to remember  
our compass** of 5 questions that unlock  
all sides of any stuck and superpowers



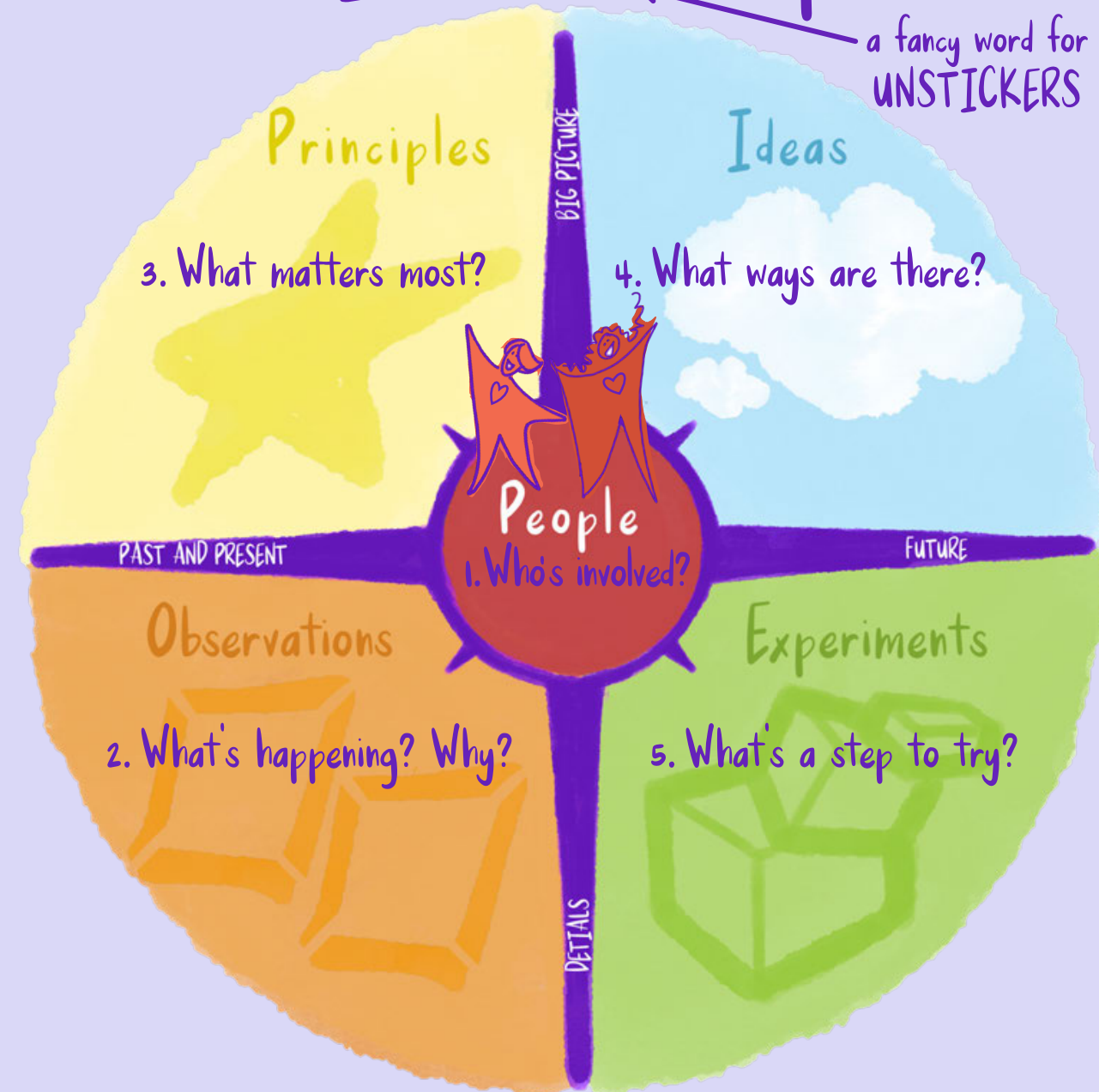
**to get unstuck  
and make things better.**

And when we use them together

**we are all UNSTICKERS.**

# Our Innovators' Compass

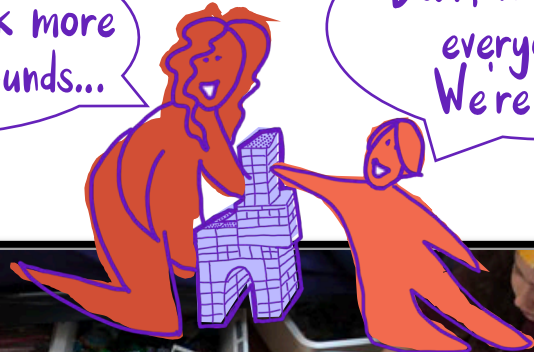
a fancy word for  
**UNSTICKERS**



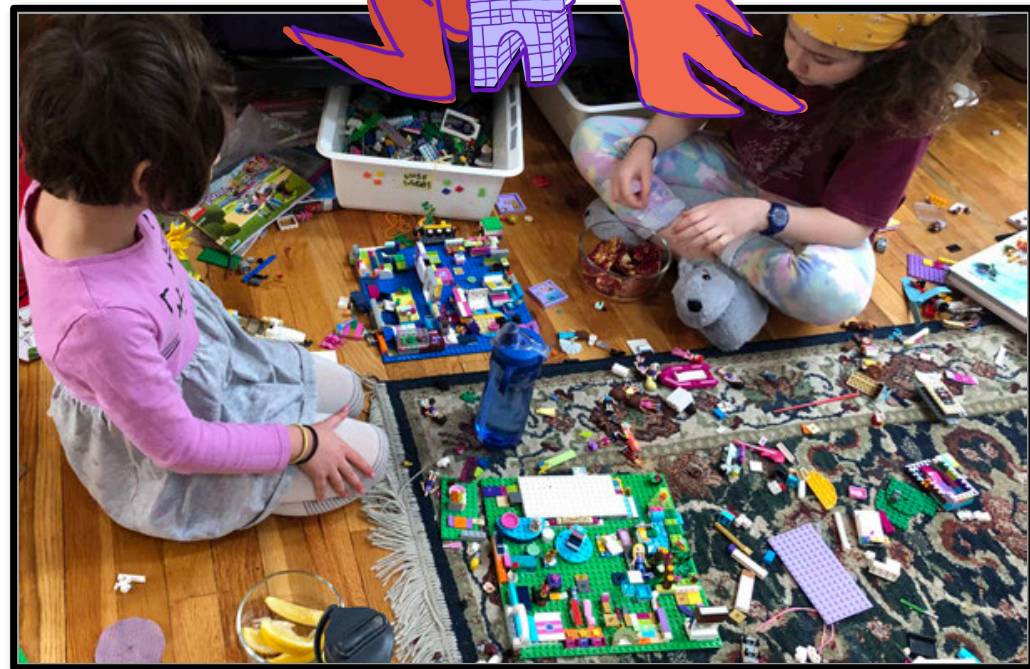
# THIS IS A TRUE STORY!

Our family used this compass of questions—sometimes on paper, sometimes just talking.


Haha, it took more than two rounds...



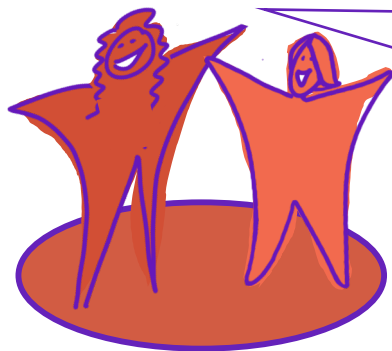
BUT, it's great for everyone now! We're unstuck!



# BE AN UNSTICKER NOW!

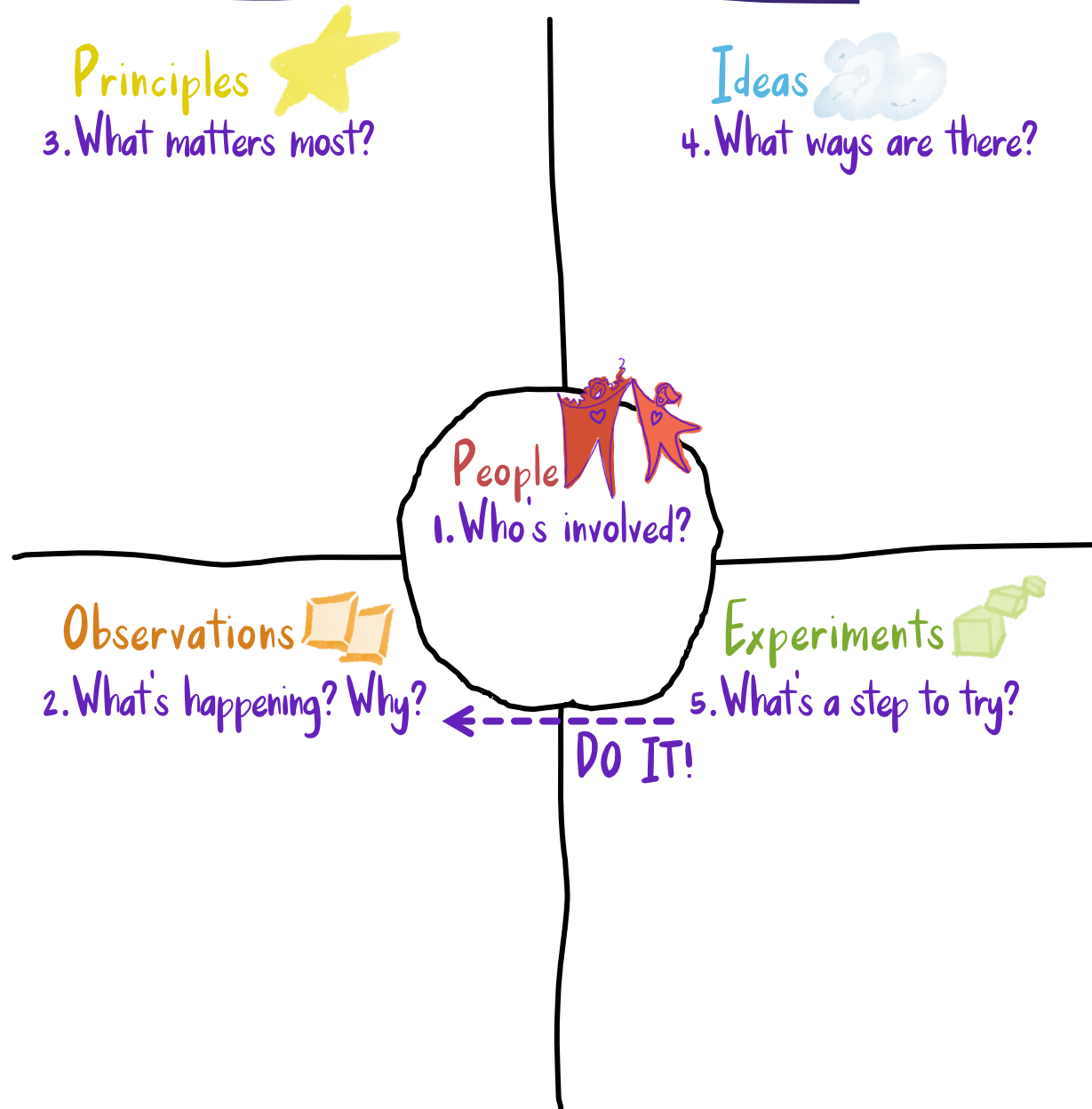
- Pick anything on **YOUR** mind to unstick right now! Anything in your next day or week to make great.
- Make a compass on any paper, board, screen... or just in your head or conversation.
- Explore these questions together. Guesses are fine! Just add a ? mark and go find out!
- Go the numbered way—or **your own way!**  You can use words, pictures, and stuff around you.

How does it feel?



Ooooooh, YES! Let's make \_\_\_\_\_ better!

## YOUR TOPIC TO UNSTICK



# MEET MORE UNSTICKERS: COMPASS INNOVATORS!

People of all ages have shared how they unstick big goals and little challenges with these 5 questions!

Look how many people UNSTICK every day!



Families Talking



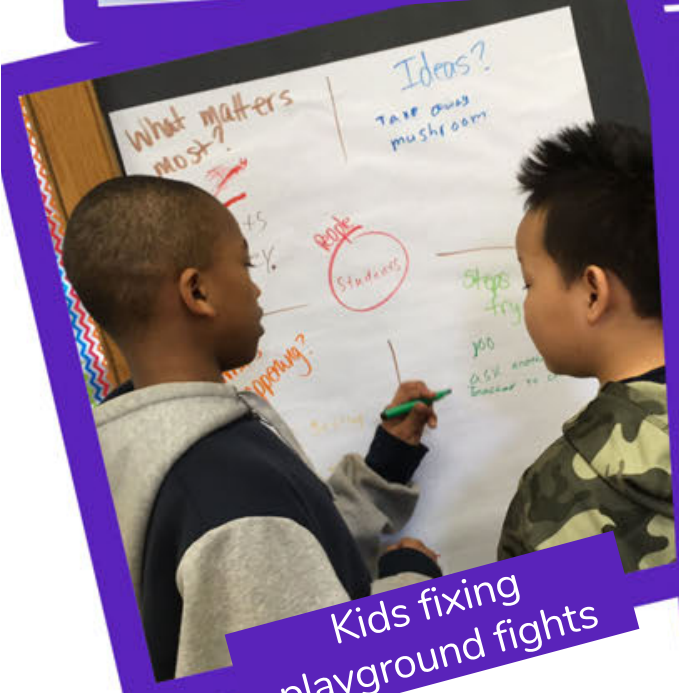
Coaches Advising



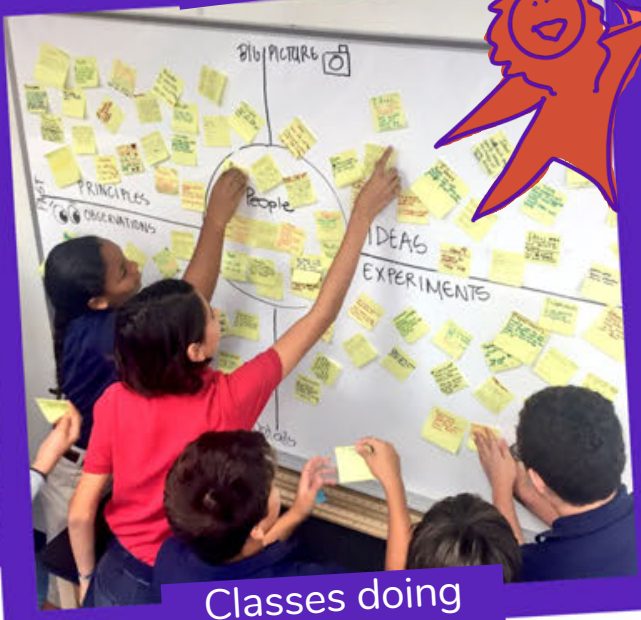
Designers Working



Communities Discussing



Kids fixing playground fights



Classes doing projects



Teachers Planning



Doctors Defeating Diseases



# MEET OUR FAMILY

**Ela Ben-Ur** is an MIT engineer, former IDEO designer and leader, Olin educator, coach for people making a difference, and mom.

She seeks the common ground in ways of making lots of different things better and makes them accessible for any person and moment—for our big stucks and all the little ones *before* they grow big.

**Arrin Katz** is an engineer, dad, and a great supporter and proofreader for this passion work!

**Dalia Katz** (7) loves cats and dreams of flying.

**Maia Katz** (9) loves bunnies and fairies.

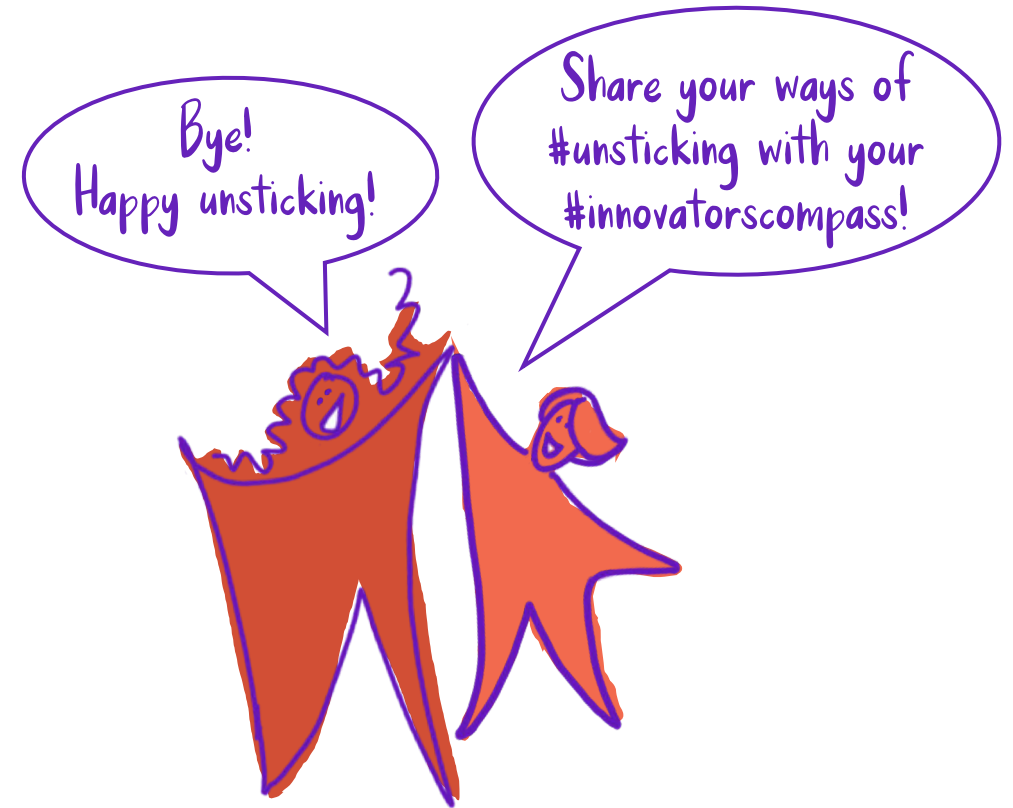
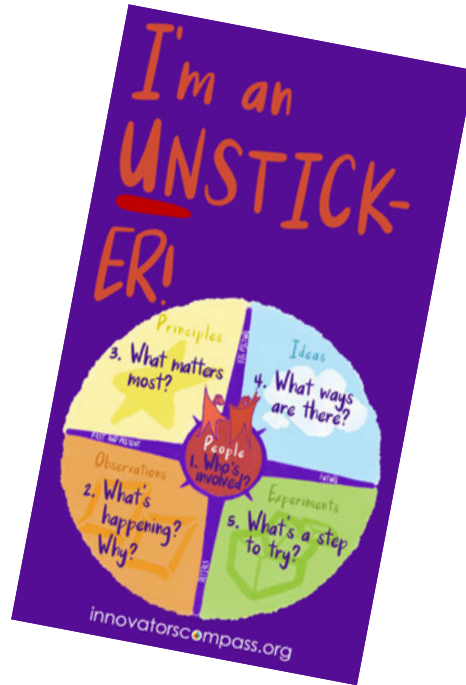
We all love books and making them together!



**Watch—and vote—for future family unstuck stories at [innovatorscompass.org/kids/](https://innovatorscompass.org/kids/)!**

## THE UNSTICKER SISTERS and..

Starting School  
Playground Problems  
Morning Madness  
Night Fights  
Whining Shmining  
Copy Cat  
Growing-Up Grief  
Vacation Visions  
Down about Lockdown



**Find all-free resources to use these questions—  
videos, apps, posters, bookmarks and more!**

**Share YOUR unsticking story and get FREE  
STICKERS for you and your class!**

# DISCUSSION IDEAS

For Parents/Educators

## What do you notice about...

- ...their **Observations** (p. 9, 15)?  
E.g. They're things people actually do, say, think, or feel.
- ...their **Principles** (p. 10, 15)?  
E.g. Different things matter—that's the challenge here!
- ...their **Ideas** (p. 11, 15)?  
E.g. Some are objects. Some are reminders for people. Some are "blue sky" (a new room), some are simple to do.
- ...their **Experiments?** (p. 12, 15)?  
E.g. They're small and specific steps. Not fuzzy ideas anymore!
- ...their use of question marks in all of the above?  
E.g. It's important to know what we don't know!
- ...the design of this book?  
Phrases we can use are bold. The compass pages are colored.

## Relate...

- What are some times you get stuck? How does it feel?
- Which 🧡📏⭐☁️📦 superpowers do you use?
- What are times/ways you could use them more?

