**Dominic Wilcox Little Inventors**

**Intro:**

I’m Dominic Wilcox an artist, designer and founder of Little Inventors

**Start:**

SLIDE: Little Inventors

At Little Inventors we challenge children to use their **boundless imagination** to **look at the world** and think up inventive ideas that **solve problems, improve people’s lives or simply bring delight and joy**.

SLIDE: Children drawing

Children are asked to draw their invention ideas on our design sheets and then we ask expert makers, craftspeople and designers to turn them into reality.

All the drawings and objects are shown in exhibitions that inspire visitors to think about the world from new and surprising perspectives.

**At the heart of Little Inventors is the idea of taking children’s ideas seriously** rather than keeping them on the fridge door in the kitchen. We feel that supporting and celebrating children’s creativity gives the children self-confidence and encourages them to be pro-active in improving their life and the world around them.

SLIDE: Classroom

We started in 2016 when I returned to my home town of Sunderland in the UK and asked 450 children to think up and draw their invention ideas. They could be practical solutions to problems or fantastical and even crazy. We don’t place restrictions on the children’s amazing imaginations.

SLIDE: Makers

We teamed some of the children up with expert makers, the children explained their idea in more detail, the child is the client and the maker makes what the child has designed. Then all 650 drawings and made objects were shown in an exhibition. Over a 1000 local people came to the exhibition. It went viral around the internet.

SLIDE: War Avoider

Charlotte aged 11 drew a War Avoiding Device that lifts houses out of war zones on wheels with an invisibility blanket. It was made real into a beautiful model.

SLIDE: Hi Five machine

Oliver age 6 said when he did a good thing but was on his own he couldn’t do a hi 5 so he designed a Hi 5 machine. This was made into reality by Sunderland Fab Lab

When the children saw their ideas taken seriously and made real it gave them a real belief that their thoughts and ideas are important.

Due to the success of the project we decided to start Little Inventors as an ongoing organisation, setting new challenges to children on different subjects around the world.

SLIDE: Food Waste

For our ‘Food Waste’ challenge, Rumaan, age 11, designed a device that scans the expiry date of your food and sounds an alarm 2 days before the food goes bad, reminding you to eat it. She worked with a potter called Donnas Peterson who made it into reality.

SLIDE: Worry shredder

Thomas age 8 worries about things, like many children. He designed a worry shredder. You write down your worry on a card then put in the machine that shreds it and then prints out a positive, supportive message back.

SLIDE: No pollution Jacket

Gruff age 6 has asthma and so invented a ‘no pollution suit’ to protect him from London’s pollution.

We now have over 10000 ideas on our website and we write positive feedback to children who upload their ideas to encourage them to keep inventing.

SLIDE: China

Little Inventors now works around the world, like this remote village in China where children are thinking up ideas.

SLIDE Middle East

And we are in the Middle East inspiring children to be the inventors of the future.

SLIDE: Space

We recently collaborated with the Canadian Space Agency to ask children to invent for Life in Space with some of the ideas being shown on the International Space Station. This is a robotic guide dog for blind astronauts.

SLIDE: Little Inventors

Creativity is often overlooked in education, but the ability to think creatively is a vital skill for the 21st century.

In a world where children feel powerless, creative education can empower young people to express their inner thoughts, ideas and feelings. Creative confidence paves the way for children to become problem solvers with resourcefulness, resilience and a desire to bring joy to others.