(Steps in making a mini-mini golf course)
(Step 1) Planning the Course

"When we first started making our Golf Courses, we had to make rough drafts. The rough draft paper was as big as the real foam board we would use to make the actual Golf Course.

We started out in pencil and then changed things to make it better. Sometimes something was too small, so we changed it. Then we traced it with marker. We tried to make the rough draft pretty good, so when we were making our real course we'd know what to do. The picture above is somebody's completed rough draft. They would be ready for the next step." - Josie
"When you're done with your rough draft then you get a large brown piece of paper and draw your course design. Then you get a big piece of yellow Styrofoam. Then you put the brown piece of paper on the top of the Styrofoam. You're going to need a sharp pencil.

Then push down on your brown piece paper with the pencil so it makes a line on your Styrofoam for parts of your design." - Taroji
(Step 3) Digging in the styrofoam

"Take your styrofoam board and you pop holes in it for the shape of the course. The second thing you do is you start scraping the mud pits and lake out so they can actually be a lake and mud pits.

Handy tip: when you are scraping out the lakes don't scrape too deep." - Oakley
(Step 4) Ready for the walls

"You put the walls in by digging out a line where the wall will go with a big nail. You have to fit the cardboard into the track that you dug and then glue the wall in place." - Jack
(Step 5) Making your Moving Part

"We had a problem making the moving part, and deciding what it was going to be.

The way we solved the moving part thing was Karen let me and Samnang play with some motor and batteries until we decided what we wanted.

Our moving part is two big batteries and a motor. Here's how it works: the motor has a stick looking thing. On top of that is a piece of white cardboard. The motor is hooked up to the battery and a switch. When you flick the switch the motor turns, that makes the blue straw turn, and when the blue straw turns the cardboard turns. That makes it hard to get the marble by it. When you manage to get past the moving part then there's the cat with its mouth open." - Chiquita
(Step 6) Creating the Obstacles

"One obstacle we made was an elephant. We tried to make the metal marble go through the elephant's body, but that didn't work because the incline was too high. Next we tried to make it go through the elephant's trunk. That worked out fine. The moving part is the tail on the elephant.

When the metal ball goes through the legs it gets stuck between the two magnets, the tail starts to move. The magnets are connected to the tail and one is hot glued into the board. The two magnets are - or +. When two of the same poles are facing each other they try to push apart that makes the tail move." - Amber
(Step 7) Painting Your Obstacles

"We had problems painting because we got some on our shirts, and it was also a problem painting the golf course because we tried to paint the bridge and tried not to let the paint drip."


(Step 8) Almost Done

“When you make the rest of your golf course you need to agree with your partner. Sometimes we got frustrated so we just took that thing off. Sometimes we asked other people in our class about our golf course. They gave us new ideas. When you are done with your golf course you might be able to paint it. We did.” - Clare
(Step 9) Troubleshooting

"I had a problem with marking my walls. I couldn't get the walls to stay up so I hot glued the walls in. Another problem was that my motor wires kept coming loose so I used duct tape and taped the wires together." - Bradley
(Step 10) Decorate and Attach Obstacles

“We were figuring out how to make our volcano. We used a cone like thing and cut part of it to make the crater in the top. We make lava coming out of the top using clay. We made cracks in it too. Our golf course theme used ideas from Hollywood movies and the way they showed volcanoes and lava. Sometimes, if someone hit their golf ball by the volcano it acted like an obstacle.

The brown cardboard on the right side of the picture is a ramp. You had to hit the ball up the ramp. The ramp is an inclined plane. I really like the golf course that I made.” - Michael
(Step 11) Presenting Our Ideas

"We gave presentations of our golf courses we made. We told the class about what the problems we had. We told our class how to play our golf course. We played our golf course pointing out kinks along the way. Our class told us what they liked and what they thought we could improve. Then we were finished with our presentation."
(Step 12) Playing the Course for Par

"At our school inventions exhibit we had people try the courses. We also had our classmates test out the courses. Next the first graders tried the courses. Every time somebody tried a course we counted the number of strokes it took to get them to the hole. Then we totaled up all the number of strokes and divided that number by the number of people that played the course. That gave us the par for our course."