Stethoscope
Listen to the sounds in your body!
Materials Needed:
• Tube from a roll of toilet paper or paper towels
• A friend, family member, or pet
To do and notice:
1. Listen to someone’s heart through their back with just your ear.
2. Now listen through the cardboard tube. Can you hear the heart better?
• If you do 10 jumping jacks, does your heart sound different?
• Try listening to a pet’s heart or stomach.
• Can you hear breathing through your stethoscope?
Can you design a stethoscope that’s easier to use?
Going further:
Sound waves travel in all directions through air, liquid, and even solids. You can hear sounds more clearly through a stethoscope because the sound waves are forced to travel in a specific direction: through the tubing and directly to your ear.

René Laennec invented the first stethoscope in 1819 - it was an actual paper tube! Over the next hundred years, many doctors tried different designs until they designed the ones we use today.