**Unpacking the Back**

**PROBLEM:** Nationwide every year thousands of students end up with injuries due to heavy backpacks

**CHALLENGE:** Gather and make sense of documented research as well input from students – then design an affordable lightweight backpack to accommodate required contents

**CRITICAL QUESTION:** Based on your findings, is the design of backpack the cause of the injuries or rather the form of the contents required?

**Kids Need Time to Play**

**PROBLEM:** Young students are not [getting enough recess time](http://www.intelihealth.com/IH/ihtIH/WSIHW000/24479/36146/1467805.html?d=dmtContent) for self-directed play and exercise

**CHALLENGE:** Imagine a playground filled with [moveable, loose, and safe objects](http://kaboom.org/about_kaboom/programs/imagination_playground) to create new experiences with each session – now design the objects so students can construct their own stories and games as well as tear down for storage

**CRITICAL QUESTION:** How might the design of the objects make certain students will be safe, as well as encourage new experiences with respectful actions and behaviors?

**Welcome Home New Friend**

**PROBLEM:** [Being a newcomer at school](http://tc2.ca/uploads/PDFs/Social%20Action%20Projects/IA_Handbook_K-4_EN_FINAL.pdf) can be a challenging experience, particularly for non-English speakers

**CHALLENGE:** “Walk through” your first day experience at school, then try to imagine what that might be like for a person who does not speak English – now create a communications design to invite newcomers to feel safe and welcomed

**CRITICAL QUESTION:**How will students know that the newcomers feel safe and welcomed?

**Small Things Do Matter**

**PROBLEM:** Currently your school purchases chairs that are noisy when they scrape across the floor and are uncomfortable for students.

**CHALLENGE:** Research the design issues and costs associated with chair design – then redesign school chair to better support student comfort and learning.

**CRITICAL QUESTION:** In addition to recommending an alternative chair design, what impact might changes in student actions and behaviors have on the problem?

Source: http://www.designlearning.us/