DREAM BIG
CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL
7–17 MAY 2025

Pixilation Parade Instructions

In 2025, DreamBIG Children's Festival is turning 50! To celebrate, DreamBIG invites students all over South Australia to be part of our 'Pixilation Parade'. This resource will give you the information and tools to create a short 15 to 30 second pixilated video of your students 'parading'.

What is pixilation? Pixilation is the process of animating people, rather than puppets or objects. The DreamBIG Pixilation Parade is a chance for your students to become part of the animation themselves!

You can create a Pixilation Parade whether you are participating in the DreamBIG Birthday Parade on site at the Adelaide Festival Centre, hosting your own parade in your school, or as a stand-alone activity. The DreamBIG Pixilation Parade extends the Media Arts learning sequence: Future Me.

Submit your entry by 10 April 2025 to be included in the 'Pixilation Parade' display at the Adelaide Festival Theatre Gallery as part of the 50 Years of Dreaming Big exhibition. All entries will be combined to form a virtual parade of students to celebrate DreamBIG's 50th Birthday.

Submit your entry by Thursday 10 April (week 10, term 1) using this link

You will need to do the following:

- Complete the JotForm.
- Verify that all students in the film have been granted full permission.
- Upload your video file (or files) using the following file naming format:

  Pixilation Parade – [school name] – [teacher name] – [class – if sending in more than 1 class film]
- If you film classes separately, DreamBIG can join your films together (just clearly label each class film as outlined above).
- Upload a single PDF (per class or the entire cohort) containing all Media Consent Forms.

Teacher preparation

- Read the information provided in this document.
- Consider which aspects of the Pixilation Parade you will plan, and which could be co-planned with the students, such as costumes, movements and the background.
- Use the Future Me learning sequence and suggested resources from the Teaching and Learning Resources to support you and your student's understanding of stop motion animation and pixilation. Slides 02 – Stop Motion Studio instructions (Department for Education 2022) will help you to understand the basics of Stop Motion Studio and similar apps (to access this resource, you need to be logged onto Plink).
- Practise making your own animation if you have not made one before, or review a tutorial such as ACMI's Make a stop-motion animation (acmi.net.au).
- View examples of pixilation such as:
  - Pixilation animation exercise (Grant Stephens 2015)
  - Pixilation animation/Stop motion animation (Amith Ingalagi 2015)

Get organised

Prepare a timeline to film and submit your entry on time. This may include the following:

- Distribute information and the DreamBIG Media Consent Form (available here) to families.
  - Start the process early by distributing the DreamBIG Media Consent Form well before filming day. Only students for whom full permission has been granted can be in the film. For students without the required full permission, consider alternate roles such as planning, filming and directing the animation behind the camera.
  - When you submit your entry, you must verify that all students in the film have full permission granted and attach a single PDF file containing the permissions for all students in the film.
- Plan what students will be:
  - wearing, such as a school uniform, costumes or dress-ups. Ensure that clothing has no obvious branding or offensive images or words on them.
  - doing, such as carrying props or parade paraphernalia created in your parade workshops (if you are having one) or movements from the parade choreography. You can use DreamBIG's Parade Resources as a guide. Note: in the final product your school will be identified via subtitles. Please do not include any school signage in your Pixilation Parade.
- Decide on the filming location and if necessary, book it. Backgrounds can be indoors or outdoors. Consider a background that represents your school, perhaps in front of a significant landmark, or favourite place of your students. Ensure that there will be enough room to film your Pixilation Parade with space either side, out of the shot, where students can line up.
- Set a filming date and location with your class (or classes). Filming is a time-consuming process that results in a short end product. Ensure that you allow enough time to film the number of students being included. If you film classes separately, DreamBIG can join your films together.
- Download the Stop Motion Studio app and practise the pixilation technique prior to the parade filming.
- Complete the entry form, attach the scanned Media Consent Forms and upload your film by 10 April 2025.

Make the animation

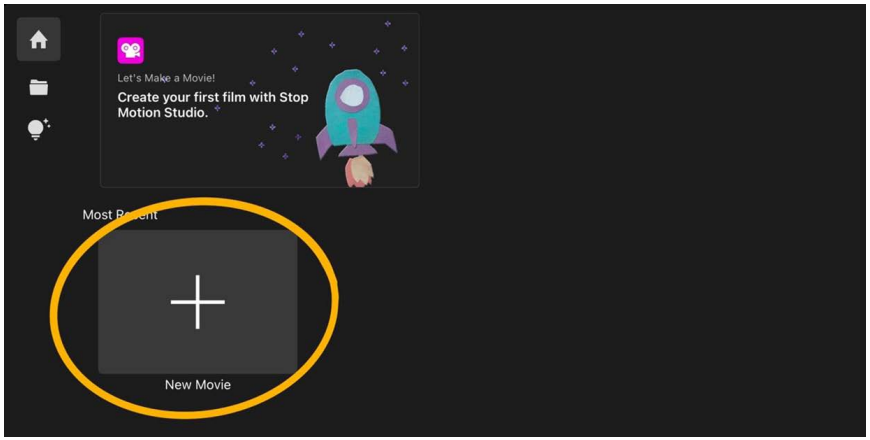
The following instructions describe how to film your Pixilation Parade with the free Stop Motion Studio app, which is available for both Android and Apple devices. There are three parts to the instructions:

- Stop motion setup
- Step-by-step filming instructions
- Exporting your film

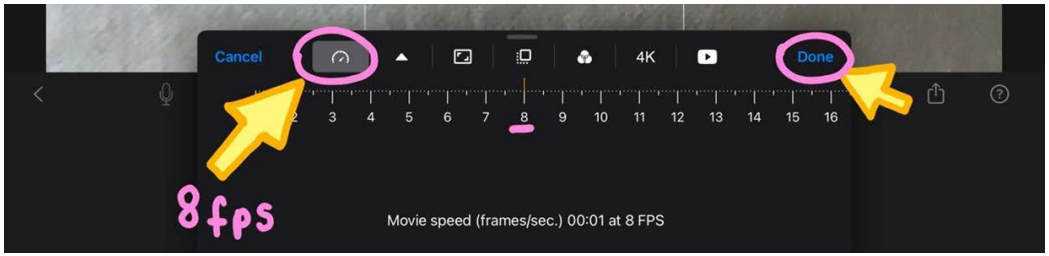
Stop motion setup

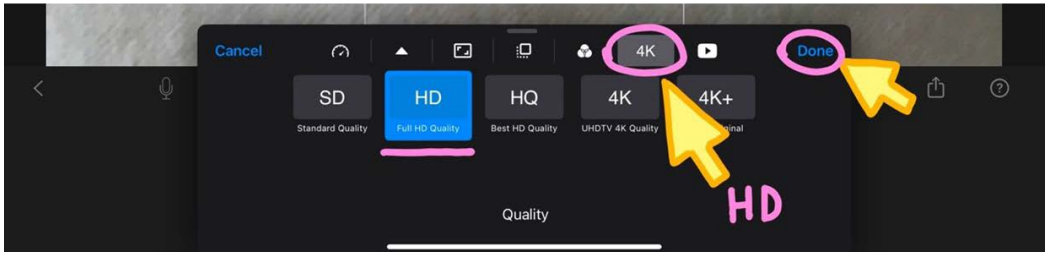
1. Set up your phone or device on a tripod or stand.

2. Open the Stop Motion Studio app on your device and tap the ‘New Movie’ icon.

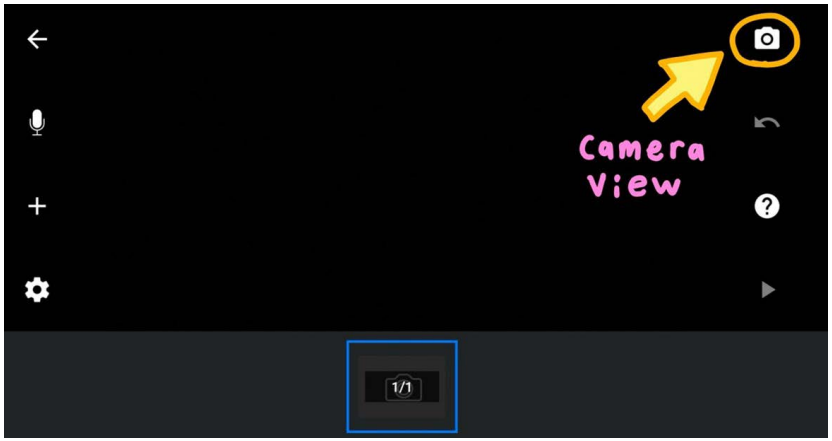


3. Click on the gear icon (settings). Make sure to have your fps set to 8 fps and your quality set to HD (refer to the image below), and press ‘Done’ to save those settings.





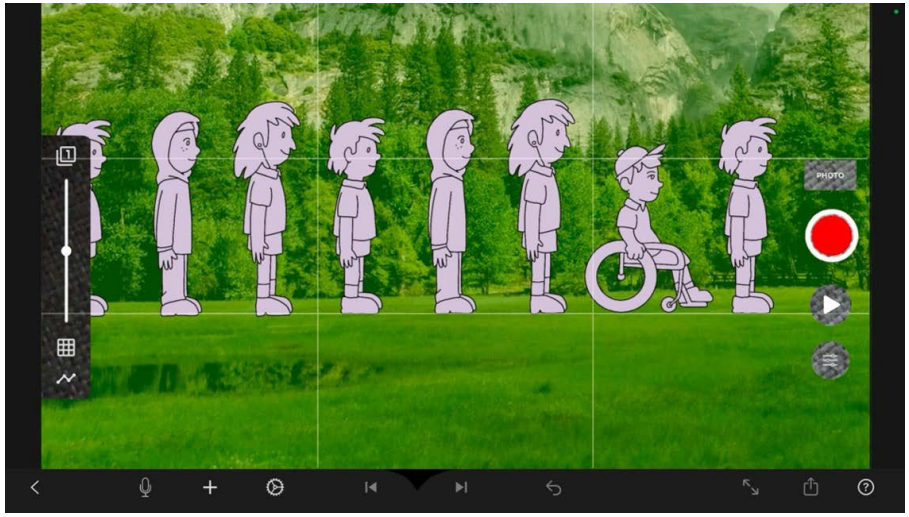
4. Tap the camera icon to open camera view.



5. Tap the grid icon to show the grid view.

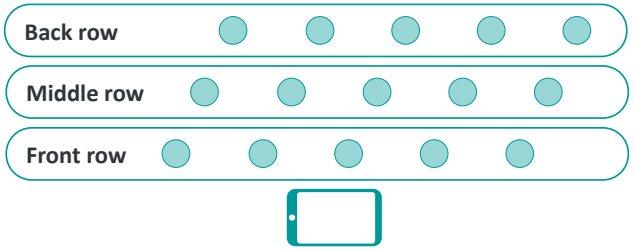
Stop motion setup

6. Organise your students a few metres away from the camera and arrange your students in a line so that their feet line up with the second horizontal line on the camera grid, as shown in the image below.



7. Mark out this line on the ground with rope or tape, so that your parade stays within the frame of the camera. Also mark where the students will enter and leave the frame.

8. It is recommended to parade in single file. If students parade in 2 or 3 lines, rather than single file, ensure that they are staggered so they can be seen, as shown in the image below.



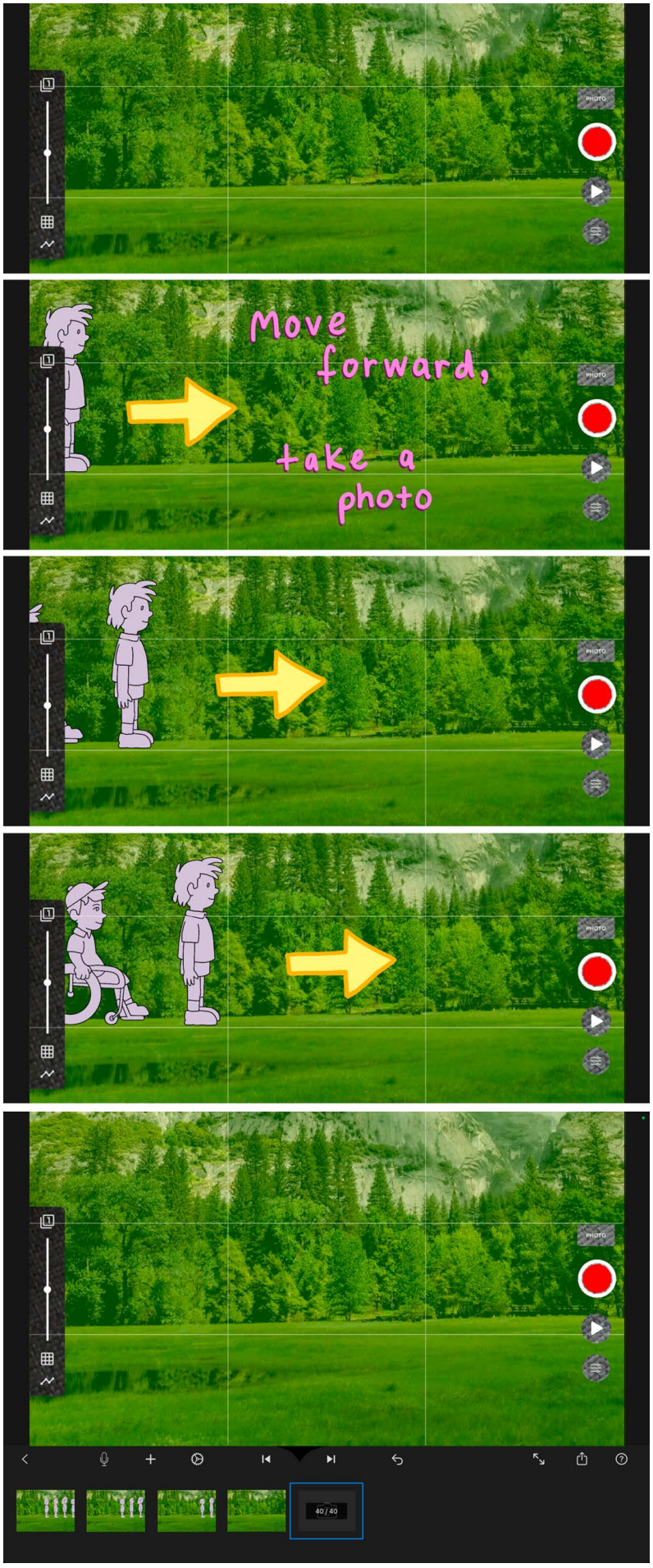
Step-by-step filming instructions (as pictured on page 5)

1. Have your students line up on the left side of the frame, just off-screen.
2. Take your first photo of the empty background.
3. Have your students all take one step forward and freeze for a photo. Repeat the process of step, freeze, photograph, until all students have moved from the left side of the screen to the right side of the screen.
4. Take a final photograph of the empty background.

Filming tips

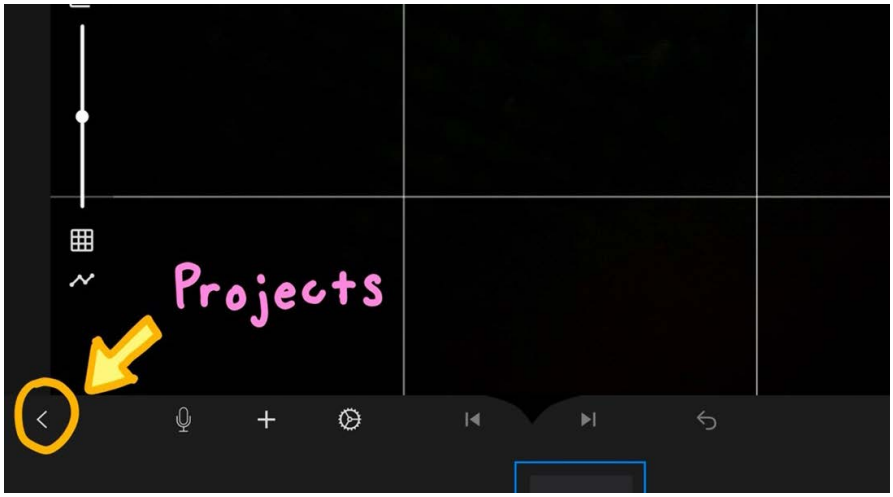
- Have some fun with what your students do for each photo! They could march in a line, do a different pose for each photo, or they could jump in the air at the same time to make it look like they are floating! See the preparation examples on page 2.
- It may help to have a countdown to taking each photograph, for example, ‘Step, freeze, 3, 2, 1, photograph’, or ‘3, 2, 1, jump!’ and take the photograph when they jump.
- Play back your movie as you film to make sure it is working as desired. Simply press the ‘play’ triangle icon under the red circle button to watch it.

Step-by-step filming instructions

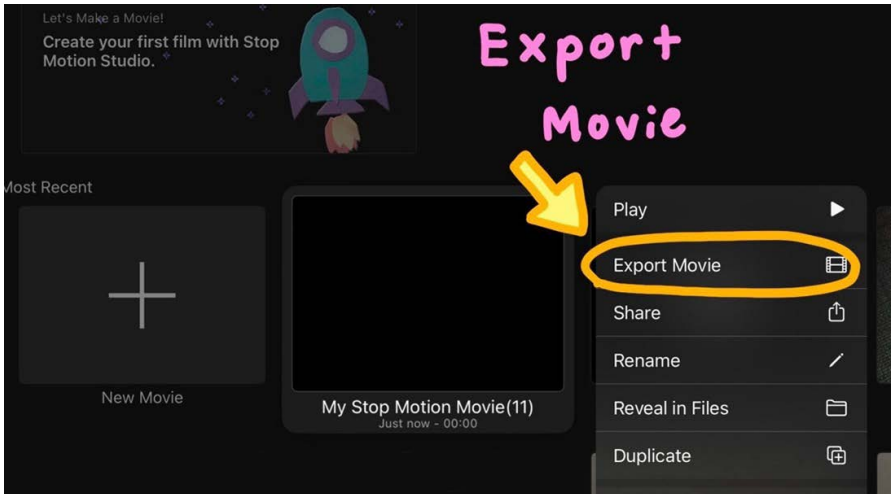


Exporting your film

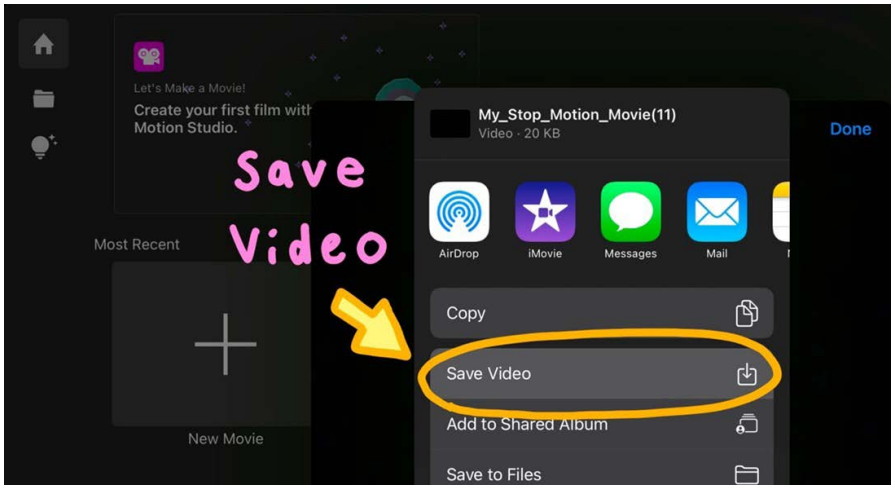
1. Once your Pixilation Parade has been filmed, you can export your stop motion animation as a video in the Stop Motion Studio app.
2. First, click the back arrow in the bottom left corner to return to the Projects screen.



3. Tap and hold on your Pixilation Parade project and then press ‘Export Movie’.



4. Lastly, tap on ‘Save Video’. Your Pixilation Parade animation is now saved as a video in your camera roll, which you can email to yourself.



5. Submit your entry by Thursday 10 April 2025 as per the instructions on page 1.