Providing STEM learning opportunities at home can be a daunting experience for parents & caregivers, but it can also be an opportunity to investigate new STEM topics and to develop new ways of learning. Here are a few tips that can help smooth the way:

**Tip #2**

**Together is Better**

Learning to work as a team is an important skill in STEM and in life, but it can be especially challenging during a time when social distancing is recommended. Online collaborative tools can allow kids to work together in a virtual setting and can help develop skills they can utilize in other settings in their future. With advance planning you can arrange for your kids to work online with classmates on an activity or challenge. Part of the learning activity should include time for kids to assess their team behaviors and discuss ways to collaborate more effectively in the future.

Humans are social creatures and being able to work together is an important life skill. If necessary, kids can collaborate online with their peers or can engage in the task with siblings of different ages. When using a multi-age group, assign tasks to team members appropriate for their abilities. For example, very young kids could be the helpers and could be the retrievers of extra supplies. Any of the “Build It!” activities from NASA STEM @ Home for students grades K - 4, 5 - 8, and 9 - 12 provide opportunities for you and your kids to work together. Try Eggstronaut for a fun parachute challenge.

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**WHAT SHOULD STUDENTS LEARN IN SCIENCE & MATH**

**What Students Should Learn in Science - Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)**

NGSS provides a tool to help parents know what kids are expected to learn at each grade level in science and engineering technology. NGSS, elementary through high school, promotes exploring and engaging in science as is done in the real world by scientists incorporating engineering and technology principles. Although it may seem daunting, following NGSS core ideas at home with your kids can actually be fun and engaging for you as well as your kids. To learn more about NGSS go to: www.nsta.org/ngss or www.nextgenscience.org

**What Students Should Learn in Mathematics - Common Core State Standards (Common Core)**

"The Common Core focuses on developing the mathematical critical-thinking, problem solving, and analytical skills students will need to be successful."

To learn more about the Common Core, go to: www.corestandards.org/what-parents-should-know/

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Activity Links:


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NASA has activities & learning resources to support you!

**NASA STEM @ Home for Students:**
- K to 4th: https://www.nasa.gov/stem-at-home-for-students-k-4.html
- 5th to 8th: https://www.nasa.gov/stem-at-home-for-students-5-8.html
- 9th to 12th: https://www.nasa.gov/stem-at-home-for-students-9-12.html

**Story Time From Space:**
http://www.spacestationexplorers.org/educational-programs/storytimefromspace/

**NASA Express:**
nasa.gov/stem/express

**NASA STEM EPDC Webinars:**
https://www.txstate-epdc.net/event-post/

**NASA STEM EPDC Digital Badges:**
https://www.txstate-epdc.net/digital-badging/

**NASA STEM Quick Bits:**
https://www.txstate-epdc.net/quick-bits/