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 #4**

**Keep it Real**

Look for ways to add authenticity to learning experiences. For example, kids are more likely to take a letter writing assignment seriously if the letter is actually to be mailed and read by a recipient. Developing a presentation takes on more meaning when it is presented to a live audience (in person or virtually). The kitchen is an excellent place to practice measurement skills and there is no better time than now to get an early start on next year’s science project.

Kids enjoy learning from experiences that are real. Want to work on some real NASA science? NASA’s Citizen Science Projects are real collaborations between scientists and the public. These collaborations have helped make thousands of important scientific discoveries. Investigations include many projects that can be done by anyone, anywhere, with just a cellphone or laptop.

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

“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:

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/

NASA's Citizen Science Projects: https://science.nasa.gov/citizenscience