STEM TEACHING TIPS
FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

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 #5

Look it Up

As questions naturally arise, kids should be encouraged to investigate their questions online. Providing a safe environment in which they can explore their questions online, models for them important life skills they can use throughout their lives. It also provides a rich opportunity for parents to talk with their kids about the validity of sources and how to determine whether a source is credible or not. Critical thinking skills are important in STEM and can be promoted through multiple opportunities to investigate and discuss various perspectives with a caring adult.

Kids are natural question-generators and their questions present many opportunities to investigate and research their questions using the internet. NASA provides a wealth of online information about topics that kids are naturally drawn to like space, rockets, the planet earth, and other planets in our solar system and beyond. For example, a good place to begin investigating is researching ways they can get involved in Citizen Science: NASA’s Citizen Science Project. On the NASA STEM @ Home 9-12 page there’s a whole list titled “Learn Something New!” with lots of great research “look it up” ideas. Once kids have determined a topic for further online investigation, they can pursue their investigation through other online sources. Parents should supervise the activities of their kids online. Some online investigations may yield conflicting answers which offers parents the opportunity to have the discussion about “you can’t believe everything you read on the internet” and to talk about how you judge the credibility of sources.
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](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](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](https://www.nasa.gov/stem-at-home-for-students-9-12.html)

Story Time From Space:

NASA Express:
[nasa.gov/stem/express](nasa.gov/stem/express)

NASA STEM EPDC Webinars:
[https://www.txstate-epdc.net/event-post/](https://www.txstate-epdc.net/event-post/)

NASA STEM EPDC Digital Badges:
[https://www.txstate-epdc.net/digital-badging/](https://www.txstate-epdc.net/digital-badging/)

NASA STEM Quick Bits:
[https://www.txstate-epdc.net/quick-bits/](https://www.txstate-epdc.net/quick-bits/)