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#6

Look to the Future

In the current situation it is an excellent opportunity to talk about systems and how they must work together. News organizations will provide kids and parents the opportunity to hear from experts in multiple disciplines all working toward a common goal. Exposure to these experts from multiple disciplines can naturally lead to a discussion about possible careers, what people in those careers do on a daily basis, and what education and preparation is needed to work in that career. These discussions are good opportunities for parents to communicate confidence that, with hard work and persistence, their kids can excel in their chosen career field.

Kids enjoy thinking about their future careers. Encourage them to set goals and begin working toward them now. Help them formulate plans to reach those goals. If their career goals are in STEM related fields, you might encourage them to consider a career at NASA. For example, kids can explore video clips that show a wide variety of NASA workers, both male and female, who talk about their careers in STEM fields. Girls may be inspired by the video Aspire to Inspire, featuring women at NASA, many of whom come from humble backgrounds and share their stories about overcoming obstacles, but what they all have in common is a passion for exploration and a drive for excellence. The videos are organized into categories of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

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/

ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO!

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Activity Links:

NASA Internships: https://intern.nasa.gov/
Launching Your Career with NASA video: https://youtu.be/I19pRG9eW9s
Aspire to Inspire website: https://women.nasa.gov/a2i/
We Are NASA: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeA7edXsU40&feature=youtu.be
Commercial Crew Program: https://www.nasa.gov/content/I-will-launch-america
NASA Employee Profiles: https://nasa.gov/about/people
NASA Everyday Extraordinary: https://www.nasa.gov/careers/my-everyday-extraordinary

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/