SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF STEAM

The way parents speak to children can encourage inquiry, reflection, and problem solving. Speak STEAM in the home by including problem-solving and STEAM-rich language in all types of activities like cooking, playing with children's toys, or exploring outside!

USE THE FOLLOWING STEAM-RICH VOCABULARY

- Observe, observation
- Predict, prediction
- Investigate
- Discover
- Explain
- Similar/different
- Compare/contrast
- Measure
- Count
- Hypothesis/hypothesize
- Explore
- Experiment
- Test
- Record
- Guess

1. Use the STEAM-rich words listed above by first saying the word and then following up with simpler terms (e.g., first ask, "What do you predict?" Then rephrase, "What do you think will happen?"). Here are some examples of rephrasing!
   - "Let's **hypothesize** or guess which bath toy will sink or float?
   - "I'm going to **record** or write down how tall you are!"
2. Introduce STEAM language as children explore their homes. Your child may understand STEAM ideas but need help developing the vocabulary to talk about what they know. Practice the example phases (adjust according to the situation):
   - "Let's **investigate** the size of these two cups!" or "Which cup do you **predict** will hold more blocks?"
   - "Let's **explore** the grass in our backyard! Is the grass all the **same**? Or is it **different** in some areas?"
3. Using scientific language with your child
   - extends and enriches STEAM experiences,
   - teaches advanced vocabulary in a meaningful context,
   - encourages the growth of STEAM content knowledge, and
   - supports your child's curiosity and exploration skills needed for later school success.
4. STEAM helps you provide your child with authentic learning experiences for using language and building communication skills. Children learn new content words in meaningful contexts. Here are some ways you can use STEAM language in your home environments:

Parent: Let's **count** how many blocks you can stack up without them falling. How many do you **predict** or think you can stack?

Parent: We did an **experiment** or **test** to see what toys would fit inside of your tube. You **predicted** or **thought** the basket would fit inside. Let's **record** or **write down** what we **observed** on our chart.

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