

## SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF STEAM

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

### ENCOURAGE PARENTS TO USE THE FOLLOWING STEAM-RICH VOCABULARY:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Observe, observation</li> <li>▪ Predict, prediction</li> <li>▪ Investigate</li> <li>▪ Discover</li> <li>▪ Explain</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Similar/different</li> <li>▪ Compare/contrast</li> <li>▪ Measure</li> <li>▪ Count</li> <li>▪ Hypothesis/hypothesize</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Explore</li> <li>▪ Experiment</li> <li>▪ Test</li> <li>▪ Record</li> <li>▪ Guess</li> </ul> |
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1. Encourage parents to use the STEAM-rich words listed above. Recommend they introduce the words to their child 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?”). Use real objects, photographs and/or illustrations to help children learn the words for key vocabulary and concepts. For example, encourage parents to practice 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. Encourage parents to introduce STEAM language as children are exploring their homes. Remind them that children may understand STEAM concepts but need help developing the vocabulary to talk about what they know. For children who are dual language learners, provide key words and concepts in English and their home languages, when possible. Have parents practice the example phrases (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. Share with parents how using scientific language with their child
  - extends and enriches STEAM experiences,
  - teaches advanced vocabulary in a meaningful context,
  - encourages the growth of STEAM content knowledge, and
  - supports their child’s curiosity and exploration skills needed for later school success.

4. STEAM helps parents provide their children 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 encourage parents' use of STEAM language and 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?  
*Home visitor:* You're promoting STEAM learning by having your child guess how many blocks they 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.  
*Home visitor:* You're promoting STEAM learning by allowing your child to explore the different sizes of items in his house!