

10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO ENCOURAGE A GIRL IN STEM

- 1.** Assume she is interested in science, technology, engineering, and math. Ask her what classes she is taking and what she is learning about.
- 2.** Ask her how she feels about the science she is learning in school. Find out if there are any teachers who are particularly supportive. Encourage her to seek those teachers out and go to them for advice or help with school work.
- 3.** Ask her about her plans for the future. Encourage her to explore fields of work that are not traditionally associated with women.
- 4.** Introduce her to a variety of role models – especially women – so that she does not limit her dreams.
- 5.** Ask questions about how things might work, and then join her in brainstorming ideas and researching answers.
- 6.** Consider your own feelings about math and science and encourage her pursuit of these subjects even if they were difficult for you as a student.
- 7.** Teach her to replace “I can’t” with “I’ll try” or “I don’t know how – who can help me learn?”
- 8.** Encourage persistence. Help her understand that making mistakes is a vital part of STEM, and that making mistakes does not mean that someone is not “good at science.”
- 9.** Ask her about how she views scientists and what she sees as “science.” Help her understand that STEM is everywhere and STEM professionals can work in a wide variety of fields.
- 10.** Visit a museum, business, or factory together to see real-world uses for math and science.

