

# Makeover Minutes

## Quick tips for your learning environment



## STEAM Learning

STEAM integrates five topics that are used in everyday life: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. In a learning environment, specific STEAM areas encourage children to creatively explore and connect STEAM concepts that apply to their own lives. These activities help children develop critical STEAM thinking skills and connect with the greater world.



Watch Video:  
[STEAM Learning](#)

## Environmental Tips

### Varied and appropriate materials

Select a variety of appropriate STEAM materials for each age group. Try to include materials from each category. Listed below are examples of materials and activities.

- **Science** – Natural objects, living plants, live animals, science or nature books, science games and tools, sensory objects.
- **Technology** – Robotics, interactive math and science activities, computers.
- **Engineering** – Building blocks, magnet tiles, simple machines.
- **Art** – Nontoxic and safe art supplies, 3D art materials, art tools.
- **Mathematics** – Math or shape-related books, math games, objects to count, measuring tapes, cups and spoons, rulers, and other math tools.



### Safety and accessibility

Organize STEAM materials with safety and accessibility in mind, based on different age groups. Use low shelves for simple materials that are safe for younger children to freely explore. Higher shelves, adjustable tables, or a separate STEAM area are strategies that allow older children to access materials that may not be safe for infants or toddlers. If space is limited, create mobile STEAM stations by storing materials in bins or boxes.

### Encourage STEAM learning

Encourage children to observe, predict, and experiment. For example, allow children to collect natural materials (science), weigh them on a scale (math), use them in various ways (engineering), and then draw their observations (art, science). Ask open-ended questions and teach children that STEAM exists all around us!

## Additional Resources

For more STEAM learning ideas, take a look at [Circle Time Magazine Season 1](#).

Access the [Meaningful Makeover](#) website for full episodes and more tips!

## References

Harms, T., Cryer, D., Clifford, R. M., & Yazejian, N. (2019). Family child care environment rating scale, third edition (FCCERS-3). New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

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