

**Professional Development Situation: Coaching****Skill Focus: Enabling Active STEM Learning****Time Required: 15 minutes**

# MAKING STEM MEANINGFUL

Participants will apply strategies for making STEM meaningful to their upcoming activity plans to learn to get youth actively engaged in STEM learning.

## Agenda

Planning Meaningful STEM—15 minutes

- [Making STEM Meaningful](#)

## Materials

- Computer with internet connection.
- [Making STEM Meaningful](#)
  - If conducting this session virtually, be sure the participant has access to these as well.

## Before the Session

- **Read this coaching guide** to become familiar with the content and allow time to personalize the activities to best suit your presentation style.
  - *Italics indicate text that can be read aloud or emailed to the participant.*
- Send an email to the participant being coached:
  - *Our coaching session is scheduled for DATE at TIME. We will focus on “Enabling Active STEM Learning”. **Please bring 1 copy of an upcoming lesson plan.** Please feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns at CONTACT INFORMATION.*
- Gather all materials needed for the coaching session.

## During the Session

### Planning Meaningful STEM (15 min)

- Ask the participant to summarize the lesson or activity they brought for the coaching session today.
  - *Share a little bit about an upcoming STEM lesson you have planned.*
- Encourage the participant to **talk about the lesson objectives** and the STEM learning goals for the activity, not just the logistic elements of the lesson.
- Discuss the [Making STEM Meaningful](#) strategies list.
  - *These are some strategies for making your learning environment more engaging, especially for youth from nondominant backgrounds. It would be impossible to use them all in one lesson, but let's take a look at some of them.*
- Give the participant a few minutes to read and review.
- You will now support the participant in adapting the lesson plan they brought with them in order to include more strategies for making STEM meaningful to youth.
  - *Talk for a moment with me.*
  - *What do you think might be easiest to try out?*
  - *Which of these would require the most risk-taking on your part?*
  - *What do you want to try to do?*
  - *What support do you need from me?*
- Try to plan a time when you can observe the participant trying out this lesson.

## After the Session

- Follow up with your participant to see how they are progressing on their action plan. Try to be supportive and helpful, not evaluative.

Want to Earn Credit? Click2Science has teamed up with Better Kid Care to provide continuing education units. Check it out at: <http://www.click2sciencepd.org/web-lessons/about>

## Making STEM Meaningful

- Solving a problem that young people have
- Getting local people involved in activities
- Engaging the special talents or interests of youth
- Encouraging youth to connect their experiences at home
- Include local history
- Connecting to local places
- Invite family members to share their knowledge related to STEM. This might be related to cooking, health, technology, farming, or design.
- Valuing and including the experiences of nondominant youth (especially non-White students and girls)
- Incorporate current cultural trends (music, popular toys or dance moves, etc.)