



## SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF STEAM

The way adults speak to children can encourage inquiry, reflection, and problem solving. Speak STEAM by incorporating problem-solving and STEAM-rich language in all types of activities.

### EXAMPLE STEAM VOCABULARY

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

1. Children may understand STEAM concepts but need help developing the vocabulary to talk about what they know. Introduce STEAM language as children explore their environments. Provide children who speak their tribal language or are learning to speak it with key words and concepts in their tribal language and then in English, when possible.
2. After introducing vocabulary, follow with simpler terms (e.g., first ask, “What do you predict?” then rephrase, “What do you think will happen?). Use real objects, photographs, or illustrations to help children learn the words for key vocabulary and concepts.
3. Using scientific language
  - extends and deepens STEAM experiences,
  - teaches advanced vocabulary while letting children see the vocabulary in action,
  - encourages the growth of STEAM content knowledge, and
  - supports children’s curiosity and exploration skills needed for later school success.
4. STEAM provides children with real-life learning experiences for using language and building communication skills. Children learn new content words in meaningful contexts.



Teacher: Let’s **investigate** or **look at** the corn we harvested! **Observe—smell and feel**—the two ears of corn. How are they **similar** or **alike**?



Teacher: We did an **experiment** or **test** to see if the objects will sink or float. You **predicted** or **thought** the spoon would sink. Let’s **record** or **write down** what we **observed** on our chart.