

Home STEM Center

SUMMARY

Your home-based makerspace can be a source of many hours of fun for your children or the entire family. You don't have to spend a lot of money to create your STEM space. Start small. Start low-tech. Designate a space in a closet or in a kitchen cabinet. Don't toss out those paper tubes from toilet paper or all those plastic tubs when you finish your cream cheese. All these items can be used in your home-based STEM center as either storage bins or supplies.

Below is a starter list to help stock your "center". What you plan on stocking in your home makerspace will depend on how will be using it and what kinds of projects you think you will be doing in the next six to 12 months. Will you be making slimes and gaks? Will you be knitting and sewing (or learning to)? Will you be doing electronic and 3D printing projects? Plan ahead. Build up slowly.

Store your supplies by type of project, if possible. For instance, place all the knitting supplies in the same bin. Label your boxes and bins prominently so your family of makers can easily find the materials they need. When inspiration hits, you just wanna make ... not hunt for stuff.

When you get stumped for project ideas, just Google it. You can also check out MakerSpaces.com for project ideas and material lists. <https://www.makerspaces.com/makerspace-materials-supply-list/>

BASIC SUPPLIES (in no specific order)

Baking soda
Alka seltzer tablets
Mentos tablets
Vinegar
Cotton balls
Sewing needles & thread
Scissors
Ruler
Plastic containers, disposable cups
Coffee filters
Small mirrors
Plastic colored beads
Construction paper
Plain white paper
Paper clips
Binder clips
Stapler
Paper cups
Rubber bands
Batteries
Toothpicks
Borax
White glue
Salt and sugar
Rolls of tape (painter's tape, clear tape, masking tape, duct tape)
Corn starch
Plain white flour
Corn syrup
Hydrogen peroxide

Tool kit (screw drivers, needle nose pliers, hammer, etc.)
Metal tape measure
Eye dropper
Plastic test tubes, beakers, etc.
Knitting needles
Crochet Hooks
Yarn
Food coloring (liquid or gel)
Alligator clips
Paper towels
Safety goggles
Shaving cream/foam in a can
Saline solution
Wood craft sticks
Acrylic paint
LEDs (light emitting diodes)
Resistors
Battery pack
Small motors
Glass test tubes, beakers, flasks, etc.
Balsa wood
Ceramic magnets

HIGHER-TECH

3D Printer
Raspberry Pi
Arduino
Sewing machine
Conductive copper tape
Makey Makey
Circuit Scribe
Robotic kits (LEGO EV3, Edison, etc.)
Activated carbon