

BEST PRACTICES FOR LEADING ACTIVE SCIENCE

<p><u>1. Set-up/Preparation.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Space separate from distractions• Space allows for easy movement• Enough tables and chairs• Materials: enough and well organized• Whiteboard or chart paper• Review your goals for the session• Welcome the kids	<p><u>2. Starting the Project/Session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BREIF review on previous project/session• [Revisit Parking Lot]• Introduce the new topic/challenge• Teams and Roles<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Materials</i>○ <i>Ambassador</i>○ <i>Reporter</i>○ <i>[Engineer/Explorer]</i>• Hand out materials
<p><u>3. Leading the Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit all teams <i>briefly and often</i>• Show enthusiasm for discoveries, successes• Show interest in ideas, questions, frustrations• Refer students' questions to other students• Encourage the ambassador role• Avoid "right or wrong"• Give <i>just enough</i> help• Ask the troubleshooting questions<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>What did you notice</i>○ <i>What did you try (and why)</i>○ <i>What have others tried</i>○ <i>What happened (exactly)</i>○ <i>What works (better, best)</i>	<p><u>4. Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Move away from materials: "<i>I'll get you back to work in 5 minutes MAX.</i>"• <i>What Works/ What do You Notice</i> chart• Safe – everyone has a turn• Short (~ 5 min)• Don't let the <i>talkers</i> take over!• Focus on <i>experiences</i> (not theories)• Encourage gestures or miming• Use <i>Parking Lots</i> for off-topic issues and <i>Science Words</i>• Reframe the challenge and get back to work
<p><u>5. Pacing the Session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First activity (<i>explore-discuss</i>) x 2 (~ 45 min)• Everyone together on same activity• Break to discuss every 15 - 20 min <p>Have extensions ready as needed for students who "finish" ahead of others.</p>	<p><u>6. Closing the Session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summarize "findings" and successes• Revisit <i>Parking Lot</i>• Announce the date, time, place, topic of the next session