

Building High-Tech Skills In Students

(NAPSA)—Teaching students STEM skills—skills in science, technology, engineering and math—could be the formula for their future success.

Still, American 12th graders ranked near the bottom in math and science scores when compared to students overseas, according to a report from Business Roundtable. Additionally, many schools report a lack of student interest in STEM education.

Experts say the trend could leave children at a disadvantage when it comes time to compete for jobs—and that a lack of STEM education could threaten America's roll in the global marketplace.

Building Important Skills

Fortunately, there are a number of ways by which parents and teachers can help children develop STEM skills from an early age. Try these tips:

- Bring young children to museums or for walks in the woods to spark an interest in science and nature.
- Let kids measure ingredients while you cook to provide a quick math lesson.
- Encourage children to develop problem-solving skills by asking them questions about their environment.

Keeping It Fun

Parents and kids can also visit www.connectamillionminds.com and use a ZIP code search feature that connects students to STEM learning opportunities in the community. Additionally, the site features video case studies of inventors and technologists talking about their projects, as well as photos and narratives about their STEM experiences.

Among the first inventors to post on the site were volunteer



A unique Web site connects children and parents to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning opportunities in the community.

coordinators of FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a nonprofit organization that inspires young people to be science and technology leaders.

The site is part of a five-year, \$100 million initiative from Time Warner Cable called Connect a Million Minds. The project is meant to inspire students by connecting them with hands-on, after-school opportunities to experience STEM in nontraditional ways.

The cable company is also using public service announcements and local community events to raise awareness of the need for better STEM education. For many students, the initiative has been a smart way to make STEM add up.

For further information and tips, go online to the Web site at connectamillionminds.com.