

# Guide for ENGINEERING MENTORS

Thank you for your time and effort in making this a powerful experience for the children we serve. You will have a profound impact on the children and we know you are here to contribute to their lives. As our partners in teaching and mentoring, we have some simple ideas for creating the best experience for the children AND you!



## HANDS OFF!

Hands-on projects may require educators and mentors to assist participants. Avoid “taking over” the project. Encourage them, step in if the frustration level is becoming a problem.



## LISTEN

Children will ask questions looking for “the answer.” Avoid giving answers right away. Ask probing questions that help them get to the answer on their own. LISTEN FOR THE GOLD IN WHAT THEY SAY!



## CHILDREN AS CONSULTANTS

If some children move more quickly than others, encourage them to support others. Be sure to acknowledge and recognize them for their great work and for their assistance.

## MENTORSHIP

Participants look up to you. Find ways to contribute something positive in every interaction.

**Acknowledge and recognize!**

**Be patient!**

**Ask about their lives!**

**Provide feedback and support!**

**Empower their ideas!**

**Positive messaging!**

## ENGINEERING

Engineers work to make the world a better place. Their work is all around us!

*Fail often to succeed sooner – Tom Kelley*

## There are no right answers!

*Teamwork!*

**Iterate & Improve**

*Combine ideas!*

## TEAMWORK & COLLABORATION

- Be mindful of isolating female participants by placing them on all male teams.
- Encourage female participants that their strengths are valuable assets to their team and as an engineer.
- Create space on teams for all children to participate by encouraging team members to take turns, trade roles, and negotiate.