

What can I do to encourage my child?

- Take advantage of the science and technology museums in your area. If there isn't one in your neighborhood, many museums are putting information and activities on the Web for young people to explore. One favorite is The Spirit of American Innovation (www.thetech.org/nmot).
- When you buy a product that's "new and improved," talk with your child about the innovation that makes it "new and improved." Why do companies do this? Does your child have any ideas for making it even better? What would she do?
- Involve your child in programs that encourage invention and innovation, such as one of the following.
 - ❑ The Technology Student Association (TSA) is a national, nonprofit organization for middle and high school students with an interest in technology. Assisting TSA's diverse population of 200,000+ student members are educators, alumni, parents, and business leaders. TSA offers competitions and programs, while providing information about becoming a technology teacher (www.tsaweb.org).
 - ❑ The Junior Engineering Technical Society is a nonprofit education organization, established in 1950 to inform and excite young people about careers in engineering. JETS hosts an annual competition for students to solve a real-world engineering problem (www.jets.org).
 - ❑ FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a multinational

nonprofit organization that aspires to transform culture, making science, math, engineering, and technology as cool for kids as sports are today. FIRST has an annual robotic competition for high school students and a FIRST Lego League for students ages 9–14 (www.usfirst.org).

Activities to do together

1. Build a boat that floats. Give your child equal-sized pieces of tin foil, wrapping paper, and paper. Tell her the objective is to design and build a boat that can hold nine objects (marbles, pebbles, paper clips) for 10 minutes or to design and build a boat that can hold the most objects without sinking. Do this many times, allowing your child to improve her design.
2. "Reverse Engineer." Select an item that is used regularly in your home (hair dryer, toaster, or television) and determine what and how many parts and materials are in it. Research where the materials came from (i.e., locations of the raw materials), determine how to best dispose of the materials (i.e., what can be recycled, re-used, etc.), or figure out how to manufacture the item using automated equipment.

What references are available to help me support my child's interest in technology?

Web sites

- Awareness Campaigns for Technology (A.C.T.) www.iteaconnect.org/ACT
- Invent Now www.invent.org/index.asp

- NASA <http://llkids.msfc.nasa.gov>
- Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers <http://oneshpe.shpe.org/wps/portallnational>
- Society of Women Engineers (SWE) www.swe.org
- Technology for All Americans Project www.iteaconnect.org/TAA/TAA.html
- The International Technology Education Association www.iteaconnect.org
- National Center of Technological Literacy <http://mos.org/doc/1505>
- National Education Association www.nea.org
- National Society of Black Engineers www.nsbe.org

Museums

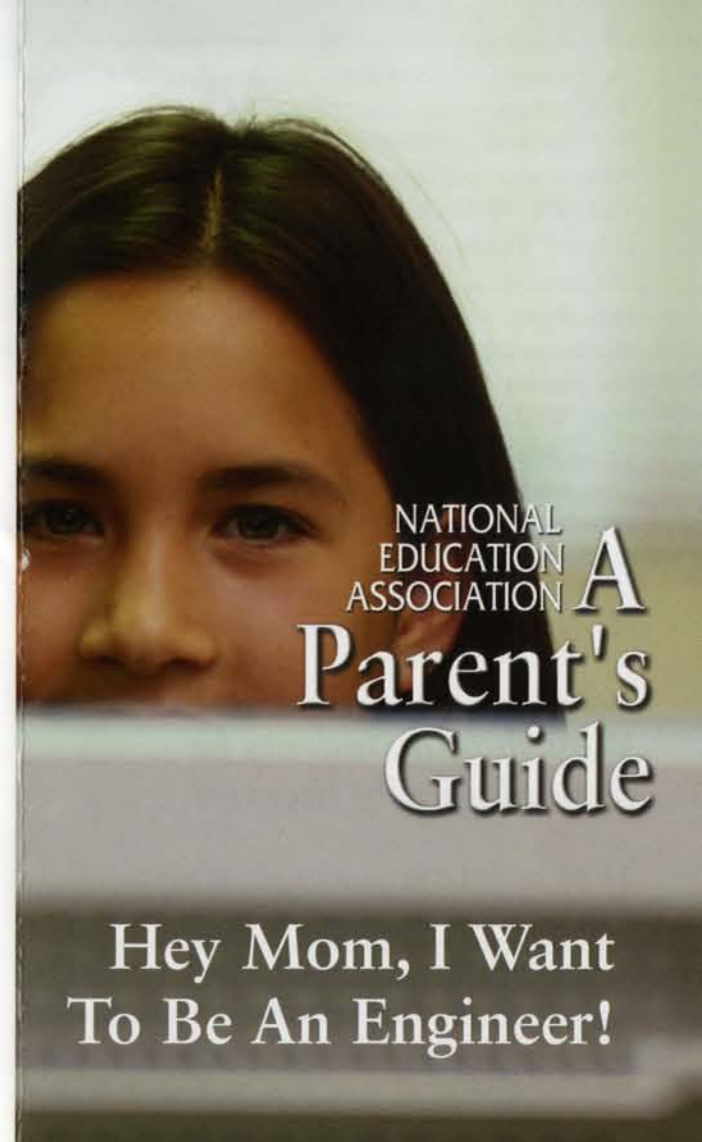
- Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) www.astc.org
- Children's Museum of Pittsburgh www.pittsburghkids.org
- Cranbrook Institute of Science www.cranbrook.edu
- Exploratorium: The Museum of Science, Art and Human Perception <http://exploratorium.edu>
- Museum of Science, Boston www.mos.org
- Museum of Science & Industry www.mosi.org
- The Tech Museum of Innovation <http://thetech.org>
- Oregon Museum of Science and Industry <http://omsi.edu/explore>



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