

# THE BIG QUESTIONS

*As you and your classroom explore the kit, take opportunities to ask these questions designed to provoke conversation and expand thinking.*

## **1. TELL ME ABOUT...**

Invite a child to tell you about their picture, structure, or approach to problem solving. This invitation will give the child the space to use new words and to practice their expressive vocabulary.

## **2. WHY DO YOU THINK...?**

This questioning gives children the opportunity to verbalize their observations and make connections.

## **3. WHAT HAPPENED WHEN...?**

This is another question that allows children to verbalize their observations. A child may perceive something quite differently from us, and in verbalizing their observations, they can gain insight into cause and effect.

## **4. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF...?**

This question encourages children to make predictions based on their previous experiences and observations. Great question to ask as you promote interaction with elements in the kits and classroom environment.

## **5. HOW DID YOU...?**

Allowing children to explain their process helps them to become more reflective in their play and explorations and children's learning is reinforced.

## **6. HOW MIGHT YOU USE...?**

There are many opportunities built into the kits to use materials in new ways, and to use materials not typically found in the child's environment. This question is especially useful with the Technology and Engineering focused kits.

## **7. WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO WITH...?**

This question encourages flexible thinking. There are many different ways to use the same tool and to solve the same problem. Invite children to come up with a variety of approaches.

## **8. I WONDER IF...?**

Wonder is an important part of exploration and discovery. STEM Kit play is open-ended, wondering play that leads to intellectual expansion and prompts even more questioning.

