

STEM/STEAM TOY WORKSHEET

This worksheet can be used as a framework to evaluate a product by answering the question:
Is this a good STEM/STEAM toy and why?

- MANDATORY** *Does this toy lead a child into exploring an aspect of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math)?*
- MANDATORY** *Is this toy engaging, approachable, appealing, and fun?*
- Does this toy encourage **open-ended** play?
- Does this toy engage the imagination and promote **creativity**?
- Does this toy relate STEM to the **real world**?
- Does this toy encourage **problem-solving**?
- Does this toy spark divergent thinking to allow for **trial and error**?
- Does this toy build **confidence**?
- Does this toy promote **hands-on** play?
- Does this toy encourage **child-led** play?
- Does this toy include **supportive materials for parents**?
- Does this toy provide a **curriculum** for guided play?
- Does this toy encourage **inclusive play** appealing to boys and girls, different cultures and/or children with special needs?
- Does this toy offer opportunities for building **social and emotional** skills?

These questions can also be used as a guideline for new product development. It should be noted that qualifying for more characteristics does not necessarily make the product better. However, the more characteristics a product qualifies for, the more multidimensional the play experience can be; and from a child's point of view, the more the merrier.