

SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT REFLECTIONS

A science-capital-informed approach is about reflecting on your STEM experience through the eyes of your audiences using these key ideas.



LANGUAGE

Think about the visual and verbal language you use, and how it can help everyone to feel that they are part of science – instead of feeling it is something ‘other people’ do.

Use personal pronouns, gender-neutral visual and verbal language, and explain any jargon.



CONFIDENCE AND OWNERSHIP

Consider how you can ensure that everyone feels welcome and confident to take part in your experiences.

Allow people to follow their interests. Give them choice and control in activities, and opportunities to contribute and share their knowledge and experiences with you and each other.



SKILLS

Think about how to help people recognise that they have and use a wide range of science skills.

Give examples of where and how science skills are used by different people in daily life. Highlight how these skills are useful in their hobbies and for jobs in and beyond science.



PROMOTE SCIENCE TALK

Think about how to encourage people to talk about the experiences they have had with you and about science in their life.

Invite people to share their own stories and viewpoints through questions which generate conversations among families, peers and communities – at home and at school.

EXTEND THE EXPERIENCE



Help people continue making science connections in their everyday lives.

Make your experiences last longer by giving people simple ideas and activities that they can do afterwards, such as questions to think about or research further, or challenges to do at home, at school or out and about.



PEOPLE

Think about how to broaden the perception of who does science by showing diverse examples of the people who use and benefit from science in their work.

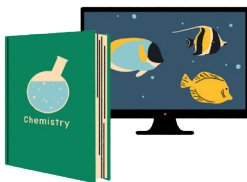
Help people to recognise that they know people who use science and how science is shaped by everyone in society.



EVERYDAY EXAMPLES

Think about how to link your STEM content to people's rich and diverse interests and experiences.

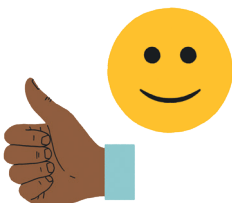
Show examples of where and how science has helped solve real-life issues. Don't make assumptions about what people's interests and experiences are. Everyone is different and may not be the same as you.



SCIENCE KNOWLEDGE

Consider how to value people's existing STEM knowledge and build on it. New information should feel like a natural extension of what people already know.

Broaden people's ideas around what science is. Communicate that science is more than just knowledge; it is a way of thinking, working and being curious.



POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

Think about how to help people to feel that science is something they can do.

Highlight and reward when people are behaving scientifically, using science skills or knowledge. Leave them with the feeling that 'I can do this' and 'I want to find out or do more'.