



# Mind the STEM Gap at home



MIND THE STEM GAP IS A  
PARTICIPATORY PROJECT,  
AND IT NEEDS YOU!

- 1 Be aware of words.**  
Phrases like “Don’t be a sissy” or “This is a man’s job” have toxic connotations, which solidify and strengthen stereotypes. We should avoid these phrases and talk about them if they do emerge: words give form to thoughts.
- 2 Be aware of cultural stereotypes.**  
Stereotypes are insidious and powerful: they condition our worldview. So they should be highlighted, analysed and discarded.
- 3 At home, avoid behavioural roles and models based on gender stereotypes.**  
Housework is not a natural female vocation. When everyone is involved in day-to-day tasks, this frees up energy and conveys competence.
- 4 There are no men’s jobs and women’s jobs.**  
Let’s adopt a gender-neutral pedagogic approach, where roles and responsibilities are assigned on the basis of personality rather than gender.
- 5 Help girls test their abilities with confidence.**  
Let’s leave girls free to explore all fields, including those traditionally reserved for boys. This will help eliminate a disparity, since girls tend to consider themselves less skilled than boys in maths and science.
- 6 Games help us learn about ourselves.**  
This is why it’s important that girls have access to science-related games still viewed as typical boys’ games, such as building sets, logic blocks or other.
- 7 Science and maths can be as fascinating as drawing or music.**  
Let’s offer our sons and daughters the chance to explore all branches of knowledge and tell them “science stories” with female protagonists.
- 8 Stimulate curiosity through experience.**  
Even just changing a light bulb with a parent can open up interesting new worlds for boys and girls.
- 9 Challenge and discussion.**  
Overcoming stereotypes is a difficult challenge. To win it, we need an educating community where the various people involved in children’s education and upbringing are in constant contact with one another.

[mindthestemgap.fondazionebracco.com](http://mindthestemgap.fondazionebracco.com)



Bridging the gender gap  
in STEM disciplines



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