

TALKING TO KIDS ABOUT ENGINEERING

Few kids can say what engineering is or what an engineer does. Yet once they find out, many are hooked! You can be the one to help a young person discover his or her dream job. As you work with kids, use the information below to talk with them about engineering.

WHAT'S AN ENGINEER?

Engineers dream up creative, practical solutions and work with other smart, inspiring people to invent, design, and build things that matter. They are changing the world all the time.

WHAT DO ENGINEERS DO AT WORK?

Think creatively. Engineering is an ideal outlet for imagination and creative problem solving—the perfect field for independent thinkers.

Work with great people. Engineering takes teamwork. As an engineer, you'll be surrounded by smart, creative, inspiring people.

Solve problems and design things that matter. Engineers improve peoples' lives by tackling problems, improving current designs, and coming up with solutions no one else has thought of.

Change the world and make a difference. Among many other pursuits, engineers develop systems that save lives, prevent disease, reduce poverty, and protect our planet.

HOW DO ENGINEERS MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?

Here are some things engineers do to help improve people's lives.

- Create more fuel-efficient cars
- Design a lighter bike frame
- Invent a more powerful superglue
- Create satellites that detect drought around the world
- Develop state-of-the-art cell phones
- Invent artificial retinas for the blind
- Develop a feather-light laptop
- Design clothing that repels mosquitoes

FIND OUT MORE

For more great reasons to become an engineer, fun projects, and profiles of engineers doing innovative work, visit the following Web sites:

- Engineer Your Life at engineeryourlife.org
- Discover Engineering at discoverengineering.org/home.asp

WHAT'S ENGINEERING?

Engineers get to imagine the future and design for it.

Marisa Wolsky, Design Squad Executive Producer

Engineering is about thinking through problems, finding solutions, and helping people.

Daniele Lantagne, Environmental engineer

The best part of being an engineer is the creativity that's involved and the satisfaction that comes from solving hard problems.

Jananda Hill, Computer Science engineer

Every day I see things that could be made better by just applying some good engineering know-how.

Jessica Miller, Biomedical engineer



Photo: Renee Mattier

The Design Squad motto is, "Fail fast—succeed sooner." If a design doesn't work as planned, encourage kids to try again.