FAMILY ENGINEERING NIGHT

GOALS
1. Engage families in engineering with fun, hands-on activities.
2. Increase public understanding and appreciation of the role engineering plays in everyday life.
3. Introduce children at an early age to the many career opportunities in engineering.
4. Increase parents’ interest in and ability to encourage their children to pursue an engineering career.
5. Provide age-appropriate resources to support volunteers in conducting informal engineering education programs with elementary-aged children and their parents.

“Short Activities”
Set up in a learning centers environment, the families move through the activities. At each center there is a short introduction to the area of engineering and explanation of how the activity fits within the field.
Includes:
• Planning traffic routes
• Bridge spans for strength
• Functionality of design
• 3D modeling
• Center of Gravity

“Long Activities”
Each Family has the opportunity to participate in an activity of greater depth that generally includes a build. These last approximately 45 minutes. Families are given a task or problem to solve with a limited number of tools and materials.
Activities include:
• Straw Rockets
• Puff Mobiles
• Aerodynamic Vehicles
• Cantilever Towers
• Mining for Chocolate
• Hoop flyers

Efficacy Research
Parents receive a very brief survey 2-3 days after attending via email. Questions align directly to the stated goals.

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