

Play and learn with us!

Sign up for an activity workshop

Get started on a STEAM activity with the PLIX team and community through our free monthly make-and-meet workshops



Try our self-guided email mini course!

Choose from a 2-week or 4-week paced email course to learn about facilitating creative STEAM learning for your community!



If you have questions, comments, or love letters for us, please email: heyplix@mit.edu

PLIX is a project under pK-12 at MIT Open Learning

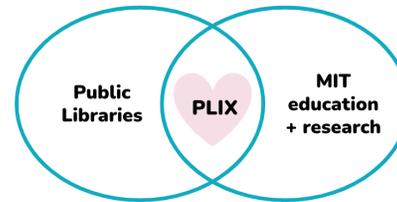


**Public Library
Innovation Exchange**
plix.mit.edu

a mini magazine about
**Creative STEAM Learning
in Public Libraries**

What is PLIX?

Started in 2017 at the MIT Media Lab, the MIT Public Library Innovation Exchange (PLIX) under pK-12 at MIT Open Learning supports the confidence of public library professionals to offer STEAM activities through the lens of creative learning.



What does PLIX do?

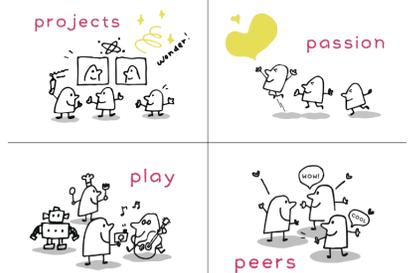
Co-design new STEAM activities based on MIT research

Professional development on Facilitating Creative Learning

Offer online and in-person workshops

Support an online Community of Practice → heyplix.mit.edu

What is Creative Learning?



The Creative Learning framework is developed by the Lifelong Kindergarten group at the MIT Media Lab.

We learn best when we are...

- actively working on **projects**
- that invites us to bring in our interests and **passions** (supporting our persistence),
- in a social environment collaborating and sharing with **peers**,
- through **playful** experimentation that supports trying new things, tinkering, taking risks, and iterating.

In a creative learning environment, **facilitators** guide and support learners without needing to be content experts.

PLIX STEAM activities for you!

Tried and true, PLIX activities are easy to help you get started offering high quality STEAM experiences.



See all activities at → plix.mit.edu/activities



Paper Circuits
Learn the basics of electronic circuits while creating beautiful interactive works of art!



LLM-Algorithm Arcade
Play and adapt familiar games to learn the fundamentals of artificial intelligence!



Data Gems
Create your own rules for tracking and collecting data that is meaningful to you, while learning data science skills!



Octostudio
Bring the physical world into interactive stories and games with on-the-go creative coding.



Spatial Poetry
Combine poetic language and data research skills to reimagine local maps and renew an understanding of place.



Inflatables
Harness the power of air, pneumatics, and imagine and design interactive inflatable creations.



Space Food
Practice design thinking while exploring and create new inventions, experiences, and flavors to enhance the future of dining in outer space!

Facilitation Techniques

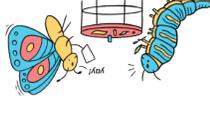
Here's a cheat sheet to the PLIX creative learning facilitation techniques!
Which ones are you already familiar with?



Frame prompts
Themes and prompts support learners to create different end products



Curate diverse, inspiring example projects.
Diverse examples provide a variety of pathways to inspire learners to make something uniquely their own!



Celebrate process and product.
Learning happens in the process, not just in finishing the project.



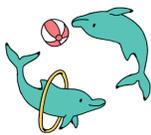
Encourage peer learning.
Fostering a culture of support also alleviates pressure on the facilitator.



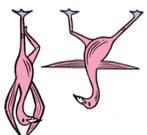
Don't touch the tools!
Support learner agency by letting them maintain control of their project, materials, and tools.



Use accessible language.
Gently introduce essential terms, relating them to familiar experiences.



Model curiosity and confidence.
Joining in the activity, and verbalizing your curiosities helps model that it's okay to not know everything.



Give yourself time to grow.
Facilitation is a practice that takes trying, reflecting, and iterating. Don't stress about being good at it right away.



Find more facilitator resources at → plix.mit.edu/facilitator-resources

