

# STEM

*starts now*

## A STEM Self Portrait

**Recommended Age:** 31–36 Months

**STEM concepts:** Engineering (designing), Technology (use of objects), Science (human anatomy)

**Materials:** Loose parts (such as buttons, yarn, string, sticks, beads, foam, etc.), empty frame, mirror, oval shaped piece of construction paper or felt

**What to do:** Set a mirror in front of your child. Ask her “What different things on your face make you special?” Allow her time to imagine and explore her face with a mirror. Have her make different faces in the mirror and see how her face changes. After a few minutes of observing, now encourage her to make her face out of the random assortment of parts you have collected! Place the oval shaped piece of foam/paper in the empty frame. This oval will act as the face. Once the face is built, take a picture of it to print out and frame!

**Language and Communication:** Once your child’s face is complete, ask him what he used to build it. This will help him understand the engineering design process! Ask how many eyes, noses, mouths, etc. are on the face. Point out that the different craft items used to make the facial features all have other uses, but they work together to create something new.

**Expand the Activity:** To expand this activity, have your child improve the face she built by seeing if she can make it have other expressions, such as sad or laughing. Have her create your face or a sibling’s face! If she has a favorite book or show, have her create the character.

