



## Design Tool 12.2: Life Skills for STEM Projects

*Directions for teachers:* The following chart suggests different categories of STEM skills and lists ways students can practice each skill. Select a category you think will be useful to students as they work on their STEM project. Then select a single skill or two from the list for them to work on. Guide them in understanding how to practice these skills.

Skill Category	Life Skills for STEM Projects Ways a team member might demonstrate this skill
<b>Solve problems effectively</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Identify problems.</b> Recognize situations that need fixing.</li><li>• <b>Take initiative.</b> Realize what needs to be done and do it without being asked.</li><li>• <b>Be creative.</b> Think outside the box, imagine, come up with new ideas.</li><li>• <b>Plan ahead.</b> Think through needed actions and organize to solve the problem.</li></ul>
<b>Be a good team member</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Stay on task.</b> Remain focused throughout the project. Don't get distracted, even when difficulties come along.</li><li>• <b>Participate actively.</b> Work closely with other team members to get the job done. Take part in team discussions, planning, and activities.</li><li>• <b>Share responsibilities.</b> Take turns sharing jobs if necessary for each team member to have a role. Share the needed supplies and materials.</li><li>• <b>Be dependable.</b> Do what you say you will do. Show others they can count on you to do your part to help the team be successful.</li><li>• <b>Be positive and friendly.</b> Get to know other team members. Call them by name. Make eye contact and smile during team meetings. Help others succeed.</li></ul>
<b>Communicate well</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Speak clearly.</b> Express thoughts, ideas, and feelings in a way others understand.</li><li>• <b>Be respectful.</b> When talking, use polite and helpful words and a respectful tone of voice. Display a courteous attitude when working with others.</li><li>• <b>Use helpful body language.</b> When talking and listening, sit straight, nod, and lean slightly forward to show interest. Avoid crossing your arms or frowning.</li><li>• <b>Be creative.</b> Use a variety of different or imaginative ways of communicating information, including in person and online.</li></ul>

(Continued)