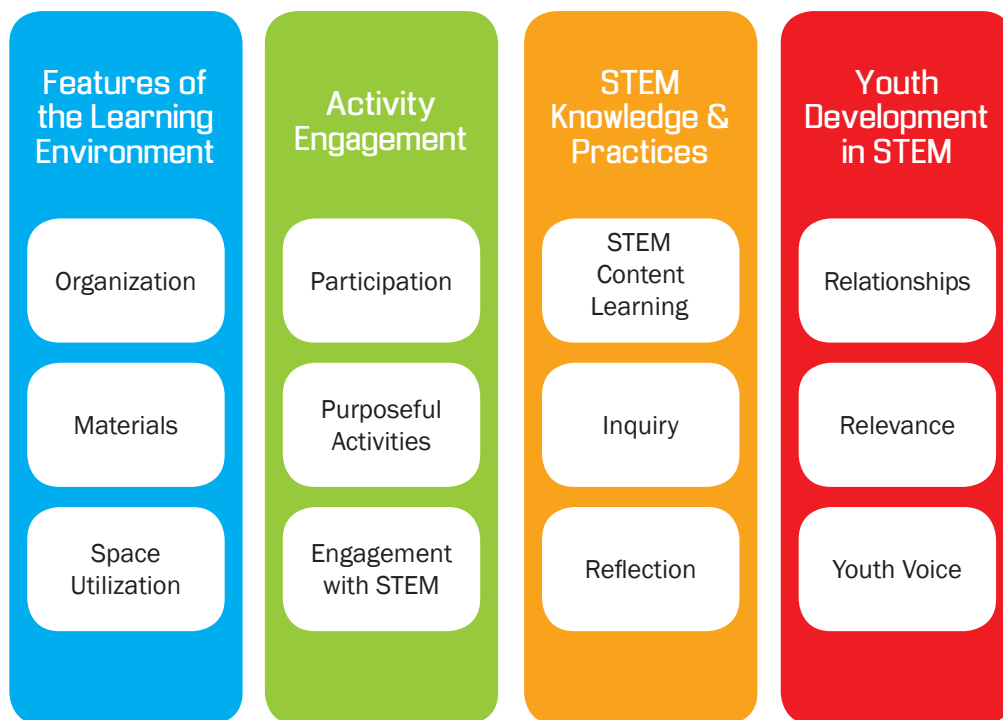


# What does STEM active learning in afterschool programs look like?

- » The environment is conducive to learning, curiosity, and experimentation.
- » Children and youth are actively engaging in purposeful activities that support STEM skills.
- » Activities give youth opportunities to further develop STEM content knowledge and practice and chances to reflect on that learning.
- » Programs promote strong relationships among peers and among youth and adults, connect their learning to the broader world, and prioritize youth voice and choice.



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance will be utilizing the Dimensions of Success (DoS), a self-assessment observation tool for STEM program administrators and staff. The Dimensions of Success observation tool, or DoS, pinpoints twelve indicators of STEM program quality in out-of-school time. It was developed and studied with funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) by the Program in Education, Afterschool and Resiliency (PEAR), along with partners at Educational Testing Service (ETS) and Project Liftoff.

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