

USE INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

Watch the pronouns you use. When speaking about a scientist, do you say “he” or “his”? Make pronouns gender neutral whenever possible.

FEATURE FEMALE ROLE MODELS

Feature images and stories about women in the information you share while facilitating the activity. Showcase real female nanoscientists. Learning about women role models is inspiring for girls, and it’s also important for boys and parents to see female scientists. Have female facilitators when possible—seeing women leading the activity can help empower girls to participate.

MAKE IT SOCIAL

Encourage sharing and discussion of the activity with friends or family. Set up activities so that more than one person can participate at a time. Consider assigning roles so that every visitor has an active role to play.

ENGAGE THE SENSES

Promote a multisensory experience with a variety of colors, sounds, smells, and textures. Take time to make sure the activity table remains aesthetically pleasing and inviting.

TELL A STORY

Engage participants during the activity by telling a story they can relate to. This could be the story of the person who discovered the technology in the activity or a story of someone who might use this technology. Encourage visitors to tell their own stories.

HIGHLIGHT ALTRUISM

Feature ways the nanotechnology in the activity has been used to help people, or ways that it may one day be used to help others. Encourage visitors to brainstorm ways they think the technology might be useful, or even express concern about ways it could do harm.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Find common connections between the activity and the everyday lives of girls. Ask girls where they would see or experience a similar phenomenon. Encourage them to tell you about a time they saw something similar, or where they might imagine using a related product in the future.

ENCOURAGE CREATIVITY

Find ways to allow for creative self-expression in the activity. Invite girls to draw, paint, make, or act!

MAKE SURE THERE ARE MANY “RIGHT” ANSWERS

Encourage open-ended investigations by finding ways for girls to explore, discover, and try ideas without any one single “right” answer.