

Parent Guide: Sharing Axolotl STEAM With Kids

STEAMfest 2026 Mascot • Quick ideas for ages 3+

Axolotls (ACK-suh-LAH-tuls) are salamanders that stay aquatic their whole lives. They're known for feathery gills and an amazing ability to regrow parts of their body. Use these quick prompts to turn your child's plush axolotl into simple STEAM conversations and mini-projects.

Quick Facts

- Amphibian (a type of salamander)
- Native to lakes/canals near Mexico City
- Breathes with gills (and lungs)
- "Superpower": regeneration

Try These Words

habitat • gills • amphibian
regeneration • adaptation
pollution • conservation

Conversation Starters (5 minutes)

- What do you notice first about an axolotl? (Color, gills, smile, tail)
- Why might living underwater be helpful? What would it need to survive?
- If you could design a "superpower" for an animal, what would it be and why?
- How could we protect an animal's home if its water got dirty?

3 Easy STEAM Activities

Science: Water Clarity Test

Two clear cups of water. Add a pinch of soil to one and stir. Compare. Ask: What changed? How could we make it clearer? Try filtering through a paper towel or coffee filter.

Tech/Art: Axolotl Pixel Pattern

Draw a 10×10 grid. Color an axolotl face using a repeating pattern (pink/white/gray). Change one variable (colors, symmetry, number of squares) and compare.

Engineering: Regrow & Redesign

Pretend a toy part "broke off." Sketch a replacement that makes it stronger or easier to use. Label materials and how it attaches. Optional: build with LEGO or cardboard.

Parent Tips

- Keep it child-led: follow their questions and observations.
- Use "I wonder..." and "What if..." to encourage curiosity.
- Ages 3–6: notice and sort (colors, shapes, patterns). Older kids: add measuring and recording results.
- For the water activity, supervise closely and wash hands afterward.

Mascot Adoption includes a 5-inch plush (weighted bottom, eco-friendly filling; ages 3+) and an Adoption Certificate with fun facts and activity ideas.