

Pedagogical failure moves:
“Hot tips” generated by informal educators at The Tech Interactive

- Be encouraging and honest.
- Encourage teamwork.
- Ask questions.
- Be on their level as much as possible (e.g., eye level or on the floor).
- Make an effort to include quieter voices when they do speak out.
- Guide students to fix the solutions using attention getters.
- Give clear instructions.
- Be positive, even if constraints are not met.
- Relate what they are doing to what engineers do. When engineers test, they identify ways to improve.
- As students work through modifications, help them think about the impact of the changes when they test.
- You can learn from a mistake. You can learn more from a mistake than you can from a success.
- Remember your words hold weight for them.