

accessible video transcript

Students as Experts

One of the things I loved about the makers club is sometimes when you think you have a problem, it actually becomes one of the greatest moments for learning in the clubs.

And for an example of this, is when we were doing the circuits with one of our clubs, we realized that we hadn't ordered the coin cell batteries, the small batteries that you use in the circuit to light up the light bulb. And we didn't we didn't have any. And it was a mistake. But the kids started, on their own, wondering if we could use the AA batteries to light up the LED lights.

And I really didn't know if you could. And none of the teachers knew if there was a way to do it. So the kids started kind of working together and different kids were working on their own, trying to figure out how we could get it lit up. And finally, one of the kids realized that the voltage was different on the coin cell and the AA.

So even though the AA batteries are bigger, their voltage is less. So they ended up taping together two double AA batteries and succeeded in lighting the light bulb. So it's kind of like the whole club was engaged in trying to solve the problem, which was a real problem because we definitely made a mistake by not ordering the coin cells.

And it was so satisfying, like for the whole club to just when the light bulb lit up, that kind of everybody had done a little piece to solve the problem. And we were all so excited, including the teachers. We were cheering that, "Wow, the light bulb went on!" and everybody was so happy and I think learned something about voltage, but also about like working together and about when you have a real problem, how you can try, try, try and figure it out and get success.