

Early STEM Learning

The skills children build during everyday interactions form important foundations for later STEM skills.



ROOM TO EXPLORE

Even very young children use science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) every day. Fostering children's STEM skills from an early age is important for later learning.



TRY THIS!

Provide materials to manipulate and explore. Repurposed items like paper tubes and coffee filters work well for art and building. Natural objects are great too! Use a magnifying glass to look at leaves, shells, petals, and stones.



GOOD QUESTION

Young children learn STEM skills through self-directed exploration, guided experimentation, and adult-supported discussions about how and why things work.



TRY THIS!

Ask children open-ended questions. Use prompts like "why," "how" and "what if?" For example, "Why did you choose that tool? How might you use that tool differently?" Then, "What if we didn't have this tool? What else could you use?"



TEAMWORK

It takes practice and active engagement to become fluent in STEM! Doing STEM with other people can help children stay motivated and enjoy these activities even more.



TRY THIS!

Engage children in cooperative activities and follow their interests. If children are interested in birds, have them work together to tally the birds they see. Make a graph and discuss! "Which were more common? Less common?"

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