

Play to Learn

STEM

What ?



Building and hands-on exploration of natural materials

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities are a fantastic way for children to be active participants in their own learning. STEM is all about discovery, exploration and building curiosity about the natural world and the way things work!



A basket of magnets and magnetic objects to explore

How?

Why?

- *encourages exploration, investigation and wonder
- *builds problem solving skills
- *uses imagination and creativity
- *promotes critical thinking skills
- *provides hands-on learning opportunities
- *builds language development
- *introduces new concepts and life skills

- ask open-ended questions ("What will happen if...?" or "I wonder...")
- provide activities that encourage children to use their senses and make observations (feeling playdough, mixing paint colours, going on nature walks, playing "I Spy")
- sing songs with repetition and patterns ("Wheels on the Bus", "Old MacDonald")
- observe and use simple tools (hammer golf tees into a piece of styrofoam, use a screwdriver to take apart old electronics)
- encourage your child to find patterns and shapes in everyday places (shapes of signs, patterns in nature)
- provide materials for building and exploring (keep a bin of objects such as popsicle sticks, magnets, wood pieces, rocks, pipe cleaners, etc.)
- follow your child's lead as they explore!



Using simple tools to hammer and screw into pieces of Styrofoam while under adult supervision