



Wee Learners(4 - 5 years): You Are Never Too Young for STEM

It is never too early to introduce children to science, technology, engineering, and math, by giving them subject-oriented materials for hands-on exploration. STEM activities can also be introduced and differentiated for children of other ages and abilities. Simple hands-on STEM activities can be carried out with materials found around the house and can be fun for the whole family and can translate into life skills as well. When children explore STEM activities at an early age, they learn that it can be interesting and fun play. Here are a few STEM related activities you can do with your child at home:

Without Touching It, Can You Lift an Ice Cube?

Can you lift a floating ice cube with a string and a bit of table salt? Soak a string in water and lay it on top of an ice cube. Sprinkle some salt on the string where it touches the ice cube's surface and wait for about a minute and lift the ice cube out of the water with the string. The salt melts the ice cube, and the cold ice cube freezes the water making it easy to lift the ice cube.

The Nose Knows

Can you guess what is in a plastic egg without opening it? Use some plastic Easter eggs that open and have holes at the bottom. Put a pinch of spice or a fruit or vegetable in each egg and snap it closed. Onion, orange, cinnamon, coffee, peppermint, garlic, basil, lemon, and banana are some good choices. Try to identify each smell by sniffing at the holes in the plastic eggs.

What Floats and What Sinks?

Using a bowl filled with six inches of water is a good way to test what floats or sinks. Find random objects around the house such as sticks, plastic spoons, stones, toy cars, blocks, pencils, and crayons. Examine each item and have your children predict whether it will float or sink.

Want to Go Fishing without Going Outside?

Use a Popsicle stick or dowel to make a fishing pole. Hang a doughnut-shaped magnet from a string attached to one end. Cut fish shapes from sheets of cardboard, or paper plates, and place a paper clip by each fish's mouth. Use a plastic or aluminum pan, or large bowl to make a fishing pond, drop the fish in and try catching a fish by touching the magnet to the paper clip. There are many variations to this activity (i.e. counting the fishes, patterns, etc.)

Why Do We Hear Sound?

Sound is energy that is made by vibrations. We easily can explore making different sounds. Gather items such as a metal spatula, pot lid and metal silverware of assorted sizes. Tie a piece of string to each item. Have your child hold the item by the string, tap each one with a ruler and listen to the sound it makes.

Would You Like to Make a Bag of Gas?

We can make carbon dioxide, the gas found in soda and our atmosphere. Get a large Ziploc bag, put two tablespoons of water into the bag, zip the bag halfway closed, drop a spoon of baking soda and close the bag completely. Place the bag near your ears and hear the bubbling sizzle sound of gas as it forms.

What Kinds of Things Dissolve in Water?

Dissolving means that a substance breaks apart into very small particles and spreads out evenly throughout the water. Fill a glass up with water and gather some things to test for dissolving. Sugar, salt, sand, cookies, string, cereal, candy, and a powdered drink are some things to try. Document your predictions in a chart format and use cold water and hot water for various testing.

Source: <https://bit.ly/34FEHce>

For more ideas follow us on social media or visit our Wee Talk Blog
<http://www.weewatch.com/wee-talk-blog/>

