

Putting STEM into Action

Six Quick Activities to Inspire STEM Learning

Curriculum Connections

- A1.** Oral and Non-verbal Communication
(A1.1, A1.2)
- A2.** Foundations for Reading and Writing
(A2.2, A2.5)
- A3.** Understanding and Responding to Texts
(A3.4, A3.6)
- A5.** The Mathematical Processes
- A6.** Number Sense and Operations
(A6.1, A6.2, A6.3, A6.5, A6.7, A6.12, A6.13)
- A8.** Data Literacy and Probability
(A8.2, A8.3)
- A9.** Geometric and Spatial Reasoning
(A9.1, A9.2, A9.3, A9.5)
- A10.** Measurement
(A10.1, A10.2)
- B12.** Scientific Investigation and Engineering Design
(B12.1, B12.2, B12.3, B12.4, B12.5, B12.6)
- B13.** Exploring Environments
(B13.1)
- C18.** Movement Skills and Concepts
(C18.1, C18.2, C18.3)
- D25.** Exploring and Creating Art
(D25.2, D25.3)

Key Takeaways

- Activities generate confidence and excitement for STEM learners.
- Everyday materials can be adapted to a variety of activities.
- Every play centre can be a STEM learning space.
- Art and STEM make a perfect match—drawing, storytelling, crafting, music, dance and other creative activities help students see science and math in new ways.
- Tools like magnifying glasses and tape measures can add a science layer to any activity.

Strategies & Tips

- **Make it familiar to make it relevant.**
Draw on students' lived experiences in your activities. Instead of an ice cream shop, maybe it's a food truck or a grocery store. Reflect your community!
- **Create authentic opportunities to make predictions and conduct research.**
Students can vote on a question like whether a shadow will get bigger or smaller and record the answers using simple tally marks.
- **Get physical.**
Physical movement, like mimicking an animal's gait or becoming a human sundial, can help students embody science principles.
- **Encourage students to tell stories about their observations.**
Storytelling is a great way to assess a student's understanding of an activity.
- **Try and try again to go deeper.**
Revisit favourite activities for deeper exploration. Going to the next level of an activity is a chance to reinforce, expand and assess the skills used.
- **Let your students inspire you.**
When you create STEM activities that reflect the things your students are curious about, engagement increases and STEM is seen as relevant and fun.