

Look for everyday opportunities for your child to learn about the world through science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).



Your community is a partner in learning.

Many of your local institutions are open to the public, are free, or have family friendly admission-free hours. Look for and enjoy:

- Neighborhood playgrounds
- Walking/biking trails
- Community gardens
- Farmers' markets
- Local parks
- Museums
- Libraries
- Religious institutions



Check with your library, doctor's office, school, or community center for more information about free local events and organizations.

This **STEM** learning guide has been created for families and caregivers of preschool-aged children. Please look for more information on this topic and Oral Language and Literacy, Approaches to Learning, Social Emotional Health, and Physical Health and Well-Being on the EEC website: www.mass.gov/edu/birth-grade-12/early-education-and-care/curriculum-and-learning/.



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Images courtesy of the EEC, Susan Etheredge, Cathy Topal, and Claudia McNeil

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Explore!



Explore together with your child...

“Healthy development depends on the quality and reliability of a young child's relationships with the important people in his or her life, both within and outside the family. Even the development of a child's brain architecture depends on the establishment of these relationships.”

National Scientific Council
on the Developing Child

Figure out how the world works through science, technology, engineering, and math.

http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/reports_and_working_papers/working_papers/wp1/

Daily opportunities for STEM exploration

Cooking

Let's figure out how many we need to make if everyone gets two.

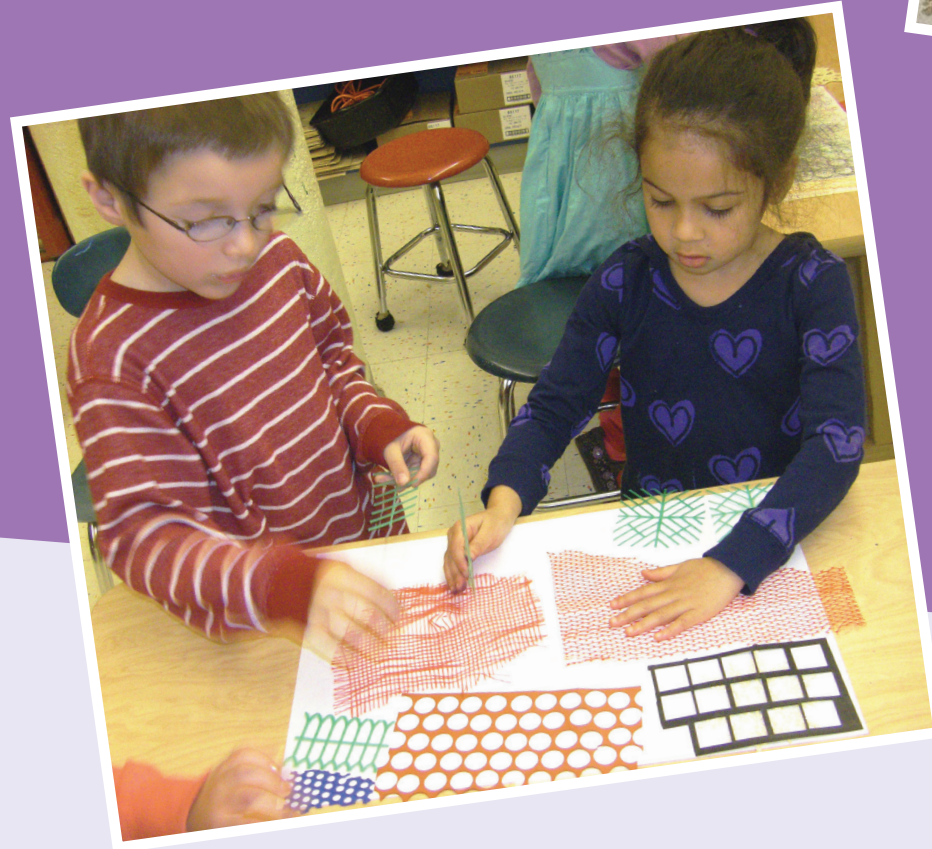


Using Simple Tools

I wonder who created the idea for a funnel? What changes as the sand goes through it?

Constructing

What does your invention do?
How did you begin?



Playing with Patterns and Textures

What do you see that makes a pattern?

Playing with Shadows

Does your shadow jump, too? I wonder where that shadow came from?



Observing the Natural World

What's the grasshopper doing?

Arranging and Sorting

Why did you organize them that way?



Investigating

Let's look up grasshoppers to find out more about their habitat.