



The Importance of STEM Learning for Preschoolers

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills are important for school success. They will also be invaluable in the job market over the next 10 years. Test results for elementary students are not promising, so it is evident that laying the foundation for STEM skills needs to take place during the early years of childhood.

- Two-thirds of fourth graders are not proficient in science
- 60% are not proficient in math
- Early reading experiences should include non-fiction science books.
- Children are strong, natural explorers of their world.
- Preschoolers can learn to make predictions about things in their environment-
“how long will it take this ice cube to melt?”
- Young children should be encouraged in their question asking.
- Opportunities to count are all around in the community- “How many red cars do you see?”, “How many boxes of cereal are in the cart?”
- Children love to measure and compare. Find ways to do this in their daily routines.
- Colors and shapes are some of the first math skills that children are interested in.

Additional Resources

Integrate STEM and Literacy, Irene Sage.

<http://eyonearlyeducation.org/2012/07/24/integrate-stem-and-literacy>

Are Some Children Too Young for Science?, The STEM Lab Report. Volume 4, January 2011.



Fun with Math & Science

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