

BUILDER'S WORKSHOP



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What is STEM?

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. STEM education for children focuses on teaching these subjects in an integrated and hands-on manner. It aims to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity skills while fostering an interest in these fields. STEM activities and programs often involve experiments, building projects, coding, robotics, and other engaging activities to make learning fun and interactive for children.

Creating opportunities for STEM at home:

- Incorporate math into daily activities: include counting, measuring, and sorting activities during snack time, or playtime. Use objects like blocks or toys to introduce math concepts.
- Foster curiosity through open-ended questions: Encourage children to ask questions and explore their own ideas. E.g. Oliver: "What happens if I put this block on top?" Adult: "what do you think will happen?" (prediction) "Try and let's see what happens!"
- Engage in science experiments: Conduct simple and safe experiments that explore basic scientific concepts. For example create a vinegar and baking soda volcano, or make slime together.
- Encourage problem solving through engineering: Provide building blocks, puzzles, or construction sets, that promote spatial awareness. Encourage children to design and build their own structures.

Remember to adapt the activities to suit the age and developmental level of the children in your care. By incorporating STEM opportunities into your home child care, you can help foster a love of learning and exploration in these important fields.



STAGES OF BLOCK PLAY

Children go through various stages of block play. As they work through the learning of one stage they are ready to move on to the next stage of play. As skills advance, it is typical for children to combine several stages. The stages are developmental—each one building on the last—but children advance at their own rate regardless of their age.

Stage 1: Discovering Blocks

Stage 2: Stacking Blocks

Stage 3: Complex Stacking

Stage 4: Making Enclosures

Stage 5: Creating Bridges or Arches

Stage 6: Combining Enclosures and Bridges

Stage 7: Building with Patterns and Symmetry

Stage 8: Building Block Structures that represent objects for pretend play.

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MAKERSPACE WORKSHOP



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What is a Makerspace?

A Makerspace for children is a designated area or learning environment where kids can engage in hands-on, creative, and collaborative activities. It is a space that encourages exploration, problem-solving, and the use of various tools and materials to bring their ideas to life. Makerspaces provide access to a range of resources and equipment, fostering a maker mindset and promoting skills such as critical thinking, creativity, and innovation.

Creating a Makerspace at Home:

Creating a Makerspace at home can be a fantastic way to foster creativity, hands-on learning, fine motor skills, and imagination. Here are a few steps to help you get started:

1. Allocate space: Set aside a dedicated area in your home where you can work on your projects. It could be a table or corner of a room. Ideally have a shelf to store the materials available.

2. Define your goals: Determine what you want to achieve with your Makerspace. Depending on your goals, and the children's interests, rotate the materials that are available for the children to use.

3. Tools and materials: These can include child-friendly tools such as scissors, glue, tape, markers, paint, and craft supplies. Depending on the age group, there may be more advanced tools like circuit kits, robotics kits, or wood.

4. Building and construction materials: Building blocks, LEGO, magnetic tiles, cardboard, recyclable materials, and other construction sets allow children to create structures, and inventions.



Why should I add a Makerspace to my environment?

The purpose of a children's Makerspace is to encourage hands-on learning, creativity, and collaboration. It provides an environment where children can experiment, explore their interests, learn from mistakes, and develop a sense of confidence in their abilities. These spaces often foster a sense of curiosity and a love for learning by allowing children to engage in open-ended projects and discover their own solutions.

Remember, a Makerspace is all about exploration and creativity, so don't be afraid to experiment and have fun with your projects. Enjoy the process and embrace the learning journey!

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SENSORY SCIENCE

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What is Sensory Science?

Simply put, science refers to the act of studying the world around us. Sensory science involves engaging children in hands-on activities that stimulate their senses while helping them to better understand the world around them.

Children are naturally curious! Two fun science activities to try at home:

Fizzy Cloud Dough

[Pinterest Link](#)

Ingredients:

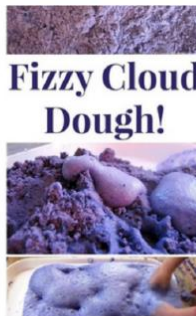
1 cup Flour

1 cup Baking Soda

1/2 cup Vegetable Oil

Mix all ingredients together
forming a dough like texture

Use small droppers to add drops of vinegar to your
dough and watch it fizz.



**Fizzy Cloud
Dough!**

Magic Milk Experiment

[Pinterest Link](#)

Supplies:

Milk

Liquid Food Colouring

Dish Soap

Cotton Swabs

Pour a thin layer of milk in a shallow pan, drop a few
drops of food colouring around milk. Dip a cotton swab
in dish soap then put it in the milk and watch what
happens.



Magic Milk
a simple science activity

Children who are curious are open to learning.

Curiosity is essential for children's
social, emotional, cognitive and
physical development.

Cultivating curiosity in children can lay
the foundation for a lifelong love of
learning. When children develop a
natural curiosity and a thirst for
knowledge, they are more likely to
become self-directed learners and
continue seeking answers throughout
their lives.



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ART ATTACK

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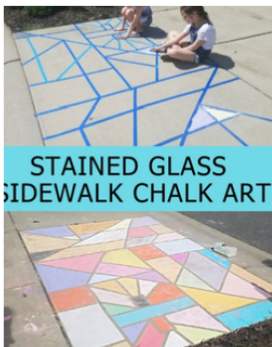
ART IN THE PARK IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF NATURE WHILE CREATING ART.

ART FOR CHILDREN IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO ENCOURAGE CREATIVITY, SELF-EXPRESSION, AND IMAGINATION.

Extension Ideas:

Art in the park doesn't simply have to be a summer thing, here is an outdoor art activity for each season:

Summer



[Pinterest Link](#)

Winter



[Pinterest Link](#)

Spring



[Pinterest Link](#)

Fall



[Pinterest Link](#)



Creativity is
contagious,
pass it on
Albert Einstein



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ART ATTACK

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PROCESS ART IS LIKE GOING ON AN ADVENTURE WITH ART! IT'S ABOUT HAVING FUN AND EXPLORING DIFFERENT WAYS TO ENJOY ART WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT MAKING THINGS PERFECT.

Extension Activities

One joy of process art is that it doesn't have to take a lot of planning and preparing. Something as simple as changing the tools the children use to paint with can completely change the process and outcome of the activity.

Try these instead of a paint brush:

- feathers
- sponges
- spray bottles
- Q-tips
- sticks
- flowers
- cars and trucks
- yarn
- forks
- toothbrush



<http://www.creativecraftingclub.com>

Finger Painting



Messy art is really fabulous for children. It is important for their sensory development, their language development, their creativity, imagination, and problem solving skills too!

Bringing Colour to Circle Time

The Color Song

Tune: If You're Happy and You Know It

If your clothes have any red, any red,
If your clothes have any red, any red,
If your clothes have any red, put your finger on your head,
If your clothes have any red, any red.

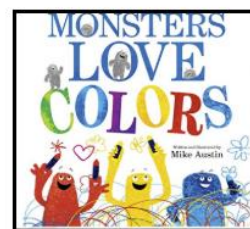
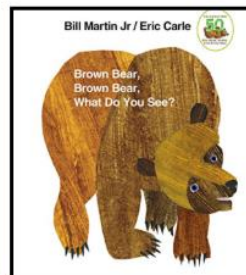
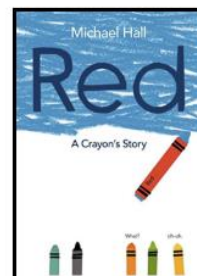
Additional Verses:

Blue- finger on your shoe
Yellow- smile like a happy fellow
Brown- turn your smile into a frown
Black- tap your neighbor on the back
White- give a hug with all your might



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Story Time



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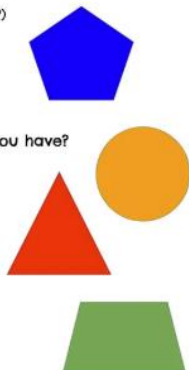
Colours & SHAPES

SHAPES SONG

(Tune: Are You Sleeping?)

Where is Triangle?
Where is Triangle?
Here I am!
Here I am!
How many sides do you have?
I have three.
Let's count together.
Let's count together.

Square - four
Rectangle - four
Rhombus - four
Trapezoid - four
Pentagon - five
Hexagon - six
Octagon - eight
Star - ten
Circle - none



LoveLearnLibrarian.com



ART FOR PRESCHOOL/TODDLERS

COLOR COLLAGE

HAPPINESSISHOMEMADE.COM



Mix It Up!

- Yellow Playdough
- Red Playdough
- Blue Playdough

Start by giving the children 2 small balls of each colour. Then have the children mix yellow and blue together, red and blue together, red and yellow together. Have the children guess what colour the mixtures will make, before mixing. After mixing you will have green, purple, and orange playdough. As an extension you can have the children add more of the red, blue, or yellow to change the hues of the new colours!



Sensory Colour Mixing

- Red, Blue, Yellow washable finger paint
- Paper
- Paintbrush

Start with the red and yellow paint. Help the child paint one hand yellow and one hand red. Make a handprint on the paper, one of each colour. Then have the child rub their hands together, they will make orange! Have the child make an orange handprint on the paper next to the yellow and red ones.

Repeat the steps using yellow and blue paint and blue and red paint. Tip: for younger children you could put paint in a Ziplock and have them mix it in the bag.

