



Little Discoverers:
BIG FUN with science, math, and more!



FAQs for Families



Hello, families! Welcome to Little Discoverers: Big Fun with Science, Math, and More! This website is designed to encourage young children and the adults in their lives to explore STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) through watching videos, playing games, and doing hands-on activities together. Our goals are to build an early STEM foundation for young children, providing tools to empower educators, caregivers, and parents in facilitating STEM learning and creating excitement around awareness of STEM in early childhood.

What is STEM?

STEM is the exploration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, and how these subject areas are connected.

- **Science** is the process of learning about and understanding the natural world.
- **Technology** refers to the physical tools and simple machines used to make jobs easier.
- **Engineering** is the process of using tools to design something to solve a problem.
- **Math** is the process of understanding relationships among patterns, numbers, and shapes.

By drawing connections between these four subjects and using the scientific process through which children question, investigate, analyze, and report, we can give young learners a structure by which to understand their world. Through this process we can help foster a love of learning that is so innate in children!

Why is STEM important for young children?

Studies show that U.S. students are being outperformed in science and mathematics. By investigating STEM concepts early, our goal is to build a foundation for and love of STEM learning that will prepare our children for success in school and beyond.

Additionally, STEM exploration inspires and supports curiosity, creativity, collaboration, innovation, and critical thinking—crucial skills for preschool children.

Is STEM too complicated for 3–5 year-olds?

Not at all! Young children are natural scientists, constantly asking questions about and investigating the world around them. Using scientific inquiry, children solve problems and answer questions through observation and investigation. When STEM concepts are introduced and explored in a child’s familiar world and with age-appropriate language, young children can learn about and have a lot of fun with STEM.

If I don’t know very much STEM, how can I help my child learn?

Adults do NOT need to know all the answers. In fact, adults can model being investigators by responding to questions with, “I don’t know. Let’s find out together!” or “What can we do to answer that question?” Through exploring STEM concepts with children, adults have the power to transform ordinary moments into extraordinary investigations even if they don’t know the answers. You may also be surprised to discover how much STEM you already know and use to solve problems every day!

How do I use this site?

Our website has six topics: 1) Experiments, 2) Sink or Float, 3) Measurement, 4) Properties of Matter, 5) Force and Motion, and 6) Engineering. Each topic includes videos, interactive games, and hands-on-activity ideas. The videos and games can be watched and played on your computer, smartphone, or tablet. Read through the Family Newsletter at the bottom of each topic page and select activities that you and your child will have fun with together during daily routines and everyday moments.

How do I watch videos and play games on a smartphone or tablet?

The website www.sesamestreet.org/stem works on computers, smart phones, and tablets. Videos can be played from any device by clicking or tapping on them. The games on smartphones and tablets are different from the ones you will find on the computer.

Whom do I contact if I have comments or questions?

Please e-mail us at stem@sesameworkshop.org

