



Summer STEAM

What is it?

Summer STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math) is all about taking early STEAM skills—using simple tools, building, observing, and creating—to the beach, park, or even your own front porch!

Tips and Activities

- A trip to the beach provides lots of *technology and math* learning as children play with their shovels and pails. Suggest that your child use their shovel to fill a pail with water. What happens? What do they see? How else can they fill their pail? Have them use the shovel to fill the pail with sand. How does that work?
- Take a walk down your street or in a park for a fun *math detective* activity as your child looks for shapes such as circles, squares, or rectangles. Look up high to see windows (rectangles) and down low to see circles (manhole covers). Ask your child what shapes the street signs are or if they can see any shapes in plants that you walk by. You can also cut shapes out of paper plates and glue them onto popsicle sticks to make a detective tool toy for your child to carry and match shapes.
- Explore your neighborhood or park gathering all kinds of natural objects for a surprising *art activity*! Bring a small, clear plastic container on your walk and have your child place grass, pinecones, sticks, etc. into the container. Then, fill the container with water, put on a lid, and put it in the freezer. When it's frozen, go outside and pull the ice out of the container. Have your child look all the way around their sculpture. What do they see from each side? What happens as it starts to melt? Let them touch the ice as it melts and talk about how it changes the shape of the sculpture.



Read All About It

0 - 3: *My Numbers/Mis Numeros* by Rebecca Emberley

0 - 3: *A Circle in the Sky* by Zachary Wilson

3 - 5: *Fix It! ¡A reparar!* Published by Child's Play Ltd.

3 - 5: *Beautiful Oops!* by Barney Saltzberg

5 - 7: *Super Sand Castle Saturday* by Stuart J. Murphy

5 - 7: *Matter - See It, Touch It, Taste It, Smell It* by Darlene Stille

Get More Information

- WGBH: www.resourcesforearlylearning.org
- National Informal STEM Education Network: <http://www.nisenet.org/events>
- STEAM: Experts Make Case for Adding Arts to STEM: https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/12/01/13steam_ep.h31.html
- <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/blog/stem-starts-early>
- Boston Children's Museum website: www.school-readiness.org

Connecting with Community Partners

Visit your local libraries, museums, zoos, parks, and other community and cultural organizations for new things to see, learn, and discover!

- Many locations offer free or discounted admission. Visit their websites for more information.
- *Free Fun Fridays* offer free admission to cultural venues across Massachusetts. For more information, go to: <http://www.highlandstreet.org/programs/free-fun-Fridays>



BostonChildrensMuseum.org

© 2018 Boston Children's Museum