Spark Curiosity with STEM

A supportive resource from the Hawai‘i Association of School Psychologists (HASP)

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities can awaken imagination and creativity in keiki! STEM education improves critical thinking and science literacy. Nursing is one of our most essential STEM fields, and Tuesday is International Nurses Day! Honor nurses this week and inspire the next generation of innovators by engaging keiki in these daily STEM activities.

COVID-19 Support | Issue 6 | Week: May 11th - 15th

**MONDAY**

Keiki have a natural curiosity. They may ask many questions per day about how the world works. Foster this curiosity by engaging them in science experiments. Show them how awesome science can be with a fun activity, such as creating expanding soap, a lava lamp, a volcano, play dough, a rainbow in a glass, or water fireworks. The possibilities are endless!

Activity: Conduct one (or more) of the science experiments in the following link and enjoy watching your keiki be amazed!

[http://www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments/](http://www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments/)

**TUESDAY**

Most keiki love computer games! Use this highly motivating and interesting topic to teach them about technology. Help them learn about circuit boards, computers, game coding, and robots.

Activity: Engage keiki in one of the following technology-based activities.

[https://leftbraincraftbrain.com/technology-projects-for-kids/](https://leftbraincraftbrain.com/technology-projects-for-kids/)

**WEDNESDAY**

STEM jobs are growing much faster than jobs in other fields, and those with STEM degrees may earn higher incomes. Take time today to talk with keiki about the different career options in the STEM field.

Activity: Explore the STEM field. What sparks an interest in your keiki? Have a conversation about future career possibilities!

**THURSDAY**

Many keiki love creating and hands-on learning! Building allows them to expand their imagination and create anything that interests them; it also can strengthen fine motor skills. Building is a prerequisite skill for engineering. Foster this natural interest!

Activity: Help keiki link their love for building to the engineering field by doing some of the following activities with them!

[https://fun-a-day.com/14-fun-engineering-activities-for-kids/](https://fun-a-day.com/14-fun-engineering-activities-for-kids/)
Movement while learning is a cognitive strategy that helps strengthen learning, improves memory and retention of material, and helps increase motivation. Math is a subject with which movement can be easily integrated.

Activity: Help keiki improve math skills by incorporating movement while learning. Encourage them to do these activities, which may also be fun to do as a family!

https://www.weareteachers.com/active-math-games/

Math Jenga is another fun game that can be used. See the Resources section for free math Jenga activities.

Exercise and have discussions about how the exercise is affecting the body.

Do one of the STEM activities for families listed in the Resources section below.

Read a book about science, technology, engineering, and math.

Identify an area of interest in keiki, research a related STEM activity, and do it. For example, if keiki has an interest in robots, research how to build a robot and do this activity with them. This also helps to strengthen relationships!

Have a science fair where everyone in the family creates their own project.

Take a nature walk around the neighborhood. Talk about the various things you see that are related to science, technology, engineering, and math to help spark interest and understanding that STEM is everywhere.

Limit exposure to the news and other possible sources of negative influence.

Have open and honest discussions. Answer any questions keiki may have while encouraging their sense of safety and security.

Allow alone time, if possible, and facilitate opportunities for self-reflection.

STEM RESOURCES

STEM Activities: https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/education/blog/simple-stem-activities-for-kids/
https://www.sciencebuddies.org/stem-activities
https://wabisabilearning.com/blogs/stem/36-stem-project-based-learning-activities
https://www.benandme.com/stem-activities-for-middle-school/
https://thestemlaboratory.com/stem-activities-for-kids/

For Families: https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/teach/activity/stem-activities-for-families/
https://www.vivifystem.com/blog/2019/3/5/10-stem-family-night-activities

Information: https://www.engineeringforkids.com/about/news/2016/february/why-is-stem-education-so-important/