

Supporting STEM in everyday practice

STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) activities are great ways to promote children's creative ideas, collaboration and problem solving skills. See below for ideas to support STEM in everyday practice.

1. Use open ended questions during play and discovery. For example, 'how does that work?', 'why do you think?' and 'how can we find out?'
2. Follow children's spontaneous questions and fascinations. For example, in the outdoor area, if a child remarks, 'I wonder how that snail got to nursery with no legs?', research information and answers together
3. Make sure resources are accessible and encourage children to select resources from across the provision to follow their ideas
4. Provide experiences that allow children to solve problems and find solutions during play activities
5. Spend time enjoying nature, experiencing its variety and richness. Explore the non-uniform characteristics of materials in the natural world and what you can do with them
6. Take an interest in the local community and look closely at buildings, structures and architecture together
7. Introduce vocabulary to support STEM. For example, when exploring bridge structures, introduce terms such as truss, suspension, cantilever etc. to describe the types of bridges
8. Introduce simple science experiments and enjoy awe and wonder with the children.



Products to support you

NDNA publication: [Inspiring Your Little Scientists](#)

Find more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna