

Starters for STEM



Starters for STEM are 10 activities that parents can use at home to help children develop their science, technology, engineering and maths skills. These activities are easy to resource and provide children with the stimulus to talk about the world around them. If you see a link you can explore how to extend these activities, you will need to sign up, for free, to access these materials. Don't forget to share your work on social media

#ScienceFromHome

Worm charming

How many worms do you think you can charm out of the ground in 5 minutes? Does anything help you to charm the worms to the surface? What about sprinkling some water on the ground? Or dancing on it?

Bake some bread

There is so much going on 'science wise' in bread baking. What job does the yeast do? Can you see the bubbles? Why does it rise like that? What is yeast? How much larger has your dough grown whilst it proved?
www.stem.org.uk/rxg5uy

Ice hunt

Freeze some treasures in a block of ice in the freezer. Now can you rescue them? What is the best way of getting your treasures back?

Gloop!

Put 2 tablespoons of cornflour into a bowl and mix it with water until it seems like a very thick liquid. Play with it over the bowl. Stir it with a spoon, hit it gently, put some in your hand, roll it into a ball, open up your fingers

Is it a liquid or a solid?
www.stem.org.uk/rxxg7

Magic magnets

Have you got a fridge magnet? What sorts of things in your house are attracted to it? Can you sort them?
www.stem.org.uk/rxfjyh

As if by magic!

When light travels from one material to another it bends. Draw a small arrow pointing left or right on a piece of paper. Fill a large, transparent glass with water. Hold the arrow behind the glass of water. What happens? Try this out with letters of the alphabet. Does it work with them all?

explorify.wellcome.ac.uk/

How tall are you in feet?

Draw around your foot onto some paper and cut it out. Use your paper foot to find out how many 'feet' tall are you? What else can you measure?

Human body

Have you ever wondered what is inside the human body? Here you can look inside and explore the skeleton, the circulation system and the digestive system. See what the key features are and find out how the parts work.
www.stem.org.uk/rx34f3

One cup of Lego

What can you build with just one cup of Lego?

Rocket mice

Cut a circle shape from a piece of paper and then cut it from one edge to the middle. Tape it into a cone and add some mouse features. Balance your cone mouse on top of an empty plastic bottle. Press down on each side of the bottle with some force and shoot your mouse into space. What makes a difference to how far your mouse travels?
www.stem.org.uk/rxetug