What?

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities are a fantastic way for children to be active participants in their own learning. STEM is all about discovery, exploration and building curiosity about the natural world and the way things work!

How?

- ask open-ended questions ("What will happen if...?" or "I wonder...")
- provide activities that encourage children to use their senses and make observations (feeling playdough, mixing paint colours, going on nature walks, playing "I Spy")
- sing songs with repetition and patterns ("Wheels on the Bus", "Old MacDonald")
- observe and use simple tools (hammer golf tees into a piece of styrofoam, use a screwdriver to take apart old electronics)
- encourage your child to find patterns and shapes in everyday places (shapes of signs, patterns in nature)
- provide materials for building and exploring (keep a bin of objects such as popsicle sticks, magnets, wood pieces, rocks, pipe cleaners, etc.)
- follow your child's lead as they explore!

Why?

*encourages exploration, investigation and wonder
*builds problem solving skills
*uses imagination and creativity
*promotes critical thinking skills
*provides hands-on learning opportunities
*builds language development
*introduces new concepts and life skills

Building and hands-on exploration of natural materials

A basket of magnets and magnetic objects to explore

Using simple tools to hammer and screw into pieces of Styrofoam while under adult supervision

Mission Early Years

Mission Public Schools