

Resources within Reason

STEM Innovation for Inclusion in Early Education

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Have you heard of the *STEM Innovation for Inclusion in Early Education (STEMIE) center*? STEMIE is a federally-funded knowledge development and technical assistance center funded to support practitioners, families, and faculty with improving confidence and competence in including and engaging young children with disabilities (birth to five) in high-quality *STEM* (*s*cience, *t*echnology, *e*ngineering, and *m*athematics) experiences. STEMIE has developed and curated resources to engage diverse stakeholders. Here are some of their key products.

Mythbusters in Early STEM Learning

These blog posts present and dispel common myths about early STEM (e.g., STEM is only for some children; STEM is too academic) with research-based information.

https://stem4ec.ning.com/blog/Mythbuster

STEM4EC Community

Join the STEM4EC community for practitioners, faculty, and families to gain knowledge, exchange ideas and ask questions about including children with disabilities in early STEM learning. The site includes blog posts by experts, practitioners, and families on topics related to supporting STEM learning for young children.

https://stem4ec.ning.com/blog

Storybook Conversation Series

Can children learn about STEM while also gaining literacy and language skills? Yes! This series of blog posts and tip sheets offers ways to use dialogic reading to engage all young children in STEM learning. The tip sheets are paired with children's books and include question prompts, related home activities, and adaptations. https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/resources?f%5B0%5D=field_routines everyday_activity%3A64

Microlesson: Learning Trajectories

Learning trajectories help us understand how children think and learn about STEM topics and, at the same time, how to support children's learning experiences. This interactive microlesson provides a quick introduction to the components of learning trajectories.

https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/our-work/learning-trajectories

STEMIE Resource Page

On STEMIE's resources page, you can find a variety of STEMIE-developed resources and products that support the work of inclusion and early STEM learning.

https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/resources

STEMIEFest

STEMIE hosts an annual festival to support practitioners, families, administrators, professional development providers, and faculty to engage children with disabilities in STEM learning. Archived recordings and resources like those highlighted below are now available from STEMIEFest 2020!

https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/stemiefest

- STEM Starts Now documentary: This brand new documentary from Jenna Kanell features practitioners, families of children with disabilities, and people with disabilities discussing why STEM is important for children with disabilities and giving examples of how children with disabilities CAN engage and excel in STEM.
- Practice-focused presentations: These 15-minute recorded presentations focus on practical applications of early STEM learning for children with and without disabilities. Each recording is accompanied by a recorded Q & A session.
- Storybook sessions: These 15-minute recordings provide ideas on engaging children in STEM learning using books. Each recording is accompanied by a recorded Q & A session.
- MakerFest: These videos, produced by the Little Orchestra Society, provide step-by-step instructions on creating instruments and objects to use in exploring wind and sound using everyday objects and loose parts.
- **Media cubbies**: This is a collection of videos and resources developed by museums and organizations focused on early STEM learning.
- **STEM mini-chats**: These are brief 10-minute presentations on early STEM content or research.

Resources within Reason is a free, one-way listserv provided by the Division for Early Childhood (DEC). All resources are evidence-based, readily available and free.

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