



Family Fun for Ages 5 to 8

In the early school years, keep your child actively interested in the world around them. Taking the time to explore, question, make mistakes, and discover together supports children's learning.

Here are some fun and easy things you can try:

- Use things around the house to build something together. For example, you can design and create a scavenger hunt, a board game, a Lego structure, a domino run, an item of jewellery or clothing, a piece of music or a recipe.
- Play games together. Whether they are board games, card games or electronic games, playing together will promote social skills as well as **STEAM** skills.
- Origami is a popular activity with some children. Start with simple paper folding, like the origami talking dog. There are lots of origami instructions available online or in books at the library.
- Draw or write with invisible ink. Dip a cotton swab into lemon juice and write or draw on heavy paper or cardstock. Use heat (a hair dryer, light bulb or iron) to make the picture or words appear. Be careful; too much heat and the paper could catch fire. Try different liquids and compare the results.
- Make music with water. Gather three or more identical water glasses or glass bottles. Fill them with different amounts of water. Now lightly tap the side of each container with a pencil or spoon. Do they sound different? Experiment with different amounts of water. Can you create a tune?
- Watch science shows or visit science websites for kids together. Talking about what you've seen is just as important as viewing.
- Read **STEAM** books together. They can explain how to make something happen or why it happens. They can provide an idea that sparks the next **STEAM** activity.

Through these activities, your child:

- practices observing his/her world
- discovers through experimentation
- practices solving problems
- plans, predicts and makes decisions
- learns that different objects have different properties
- learns new words
- creates and invents
- has fun!

For more ideas, visit Decoda's **STEAM** Family Fun Pinterest page (pinterest.com/decodaliteracy/steam-family-fun/) and Science World's *Big Science Little Hands* website: <http://www.scienceworld.ca/resources/main>