SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING ART MATH

family literacy week

Decoda
LITERACY SOLUTIONS

Family Fun for Babies and Toddlers

Babies are born scientists and natural explorers. They learn about their world by observing and experimenting. **STEAM** activities for babies and toddlers are about providing multisensory experiences where children make discoveries by seeing, hearing, tasting, touching and smelling.

Here are some fun and easy things you can try:

- Gather household objects that make different noises, e.g. plastic containers with something inside, spoons, pot lids, and toys. Make lots of different sounds and rhythms. Use objects that make both hard and soft sounds. Talk about what you hear.
- Make a treasure basket. Fill a basket with safe household items that have different colours, textures, weights, sizes, etc. For younger babies, a basket with soft fabric, a soft toy, a soft sponge, and soft towel is appropriate.
- Young babies can hold, mouth, and drop blocks. And they can watch you stack and knock over blocks. As children develop, they can start to sort, stack and build with blocks. Make sure the blocks are designed for very young children.
- Does it roll? Roll a ball back and forth between you and your toddler. What makes it roll faster? What other things will roll?
- Read books together. Books with colourful pictures, numbers, and photographs accompanied by your voice help your child learn about the world.

Through these activities, your child:

- practices observing his/her world
- learns to listen carefully
- discovers that different objects have different properties
- learns new words
- develops eye hand coordination
- learns that when they do something, it makes other things happen
- has fun!

A word about technology for children aged two and under: Currently, doctors and early childhood education professionals recommend limited or no screen time for infants and toddlers. And, when technology is used, it should be used with adults to help strengthen adult-child relationships.