From Tots to Teens:
STE(A)M Powered Ideas for Programming

WebJunction Webinar
December 14, 2017
Presented by Heather Love Beverley and Heather Thompson
WHO ARE WE?

HEATHERS

LOVE BEVERLEY

THOMPSON
WHO ARE WE?

HEATHERS

LOVE BEVERLEY

THOMPSON

...and that is Barkington von Makeithappen strapped to a remote controlled car with a GoPro on top.

..because, science.
STEM vs. STEAM

Science  Technology  Engineering  Math
Science  Technology  Engineering  Math
Happy Surprise!

STEMinlibraries.com

Librarian Jazz Hands!
Week Thirty-Nine: Beam & Suspension Bridges

October 18, 2015 by libraryheather

Program Title: Beam & Suspension Bridges

Target Age Range: Grades 4-6

Program Length: 90 minutes

Brief Description:
Learn the difference between beam and suspension bridges, then build and test your own for strength in small groups.

Supplies:
Plastic straws

More shiny stuff!
WHY STEM IN THE LIBRARY

Support and supplement school curriculum, and provide opportunities for hands-on experiments that schools cannot.
WHY STEM IN THE LIBRARY

Kids are naturally interested in exploring the world.

Libraries can nurture and maintain this interest to help them stay ahead of the curve.
WHY STEM IN THE LIBRARY

STEM programs promote critical thinking, creativity, and problem solving skills.
WHY STEM IN THE LIBRARY

STEM programs allow for a collaborative learning environment.
WHY STEM IN THE LIBRARY

Support your library’s core mission.

Instant buy in: Have your Director participate!

Hi Dave!
WHY STEM IN THE LIBRARY

Because it’s fun. And awesome.
WHERE TO START

Pinterest  (of course, and oh-so-pretty)

Google   (not as pretty, but still good)

Google Image  (pretty! …not always as good)
WHERE TO START

Ask a Librarian!

(Shameless plug: This is our group- join us!)
WHERE TO START

Library Books. (What?? Madness!!!)
WHERE TO START

CONSTANT VIGILANCE!
Good Project vs. Bad

• Can it be done in an hour? Hour and a half?
• Can it be easily replicated for 20+ kids?
• How much hands-on help is needed?
• Are the supplies easy or hard to find?
• What level is the science at?
• Is it fun?!
Good Project vs. Bad

Would this be a good or bad project for 20+ 1st-3rd graders?

YES!  NO!
Good Project vs. Bad?

NO!  BAD!
**Program Structure**

**Science Explorers Juniors:**
1st – 3rd graders  (60 minutes)

5 minutes getting settled

10-15 minutes of introductions, science discussion, and reading a related book.

40-45 minutes of demos and/or hands-on projects.

*If possible, give them something tangible to take home!*
Program Structure

**Tween Science Explorers:** 4th – 6th graders (90 minutes)
5 minutes getting settled

15-25 minutes of introductions, science explanation and discussion, demos and/or videos

65-75 minutes of hands-on project time (usually 1-2 projects)
Program Structure

**Science Explorers:** 7th grade & up (90 minutes)

5 minutes getting settled

10-15 minutes of introductions, science explanation and discussion, demos and/or videos

75-80 minutes focusing on in-depth projects, with an emphasis on creativity, competition, and instruction reading.
**Program Structure**

**STEAM Storytime:**
3-6 year olds with a caregiver
(60 minutes)

5 minutes getting settled

25 minutes science-related storytime

30 minutes hands-on lab time (3-4 activity stations)
Arsenal of Science Supplies

Program supplies: the dollar store is your very best friend, and there will be many items worth investing in that you will use again and again and again.
Tips, Tricks and Other Practicalities

You will learn (and forget) many strange and interesting things.
Tips, Tricks and Other Practicalities

Don’t be afraid to say “I don’t know.”

Regis, I’d like to phone a friend, please.
Tips, Tricks and Other Practicalities

Be excited, not scared
(they can smell fear).
Tips, Tricks and Other Practicalities

Don’t over-plan.

…just like there’s such a thing as “too much cake,” there can be “too many good ideas for one program.”

Bow of thanks to the great Allie Brosh. We’re not worthy!
Tips, Tricks and Other Practicalities

Programs that involve free building are the best.
Tips, Tricks and Other Practicalities

Is there something questionable in your program?

Better do it yourself!
Tips, Tricks and Other Practicalities

EMBRACE THE CHAOS!
Tips, Tricks and Other Practicalities

There’s no such thing as failure.

Once more, Allie says it best:
http://hyperboleandahalf.blogspot.com/2010/07/dog.html
Tips, Tricks and Other Practicalities

Ageing Programs Up and Down

Littles (Pre-K-3rd Grade)
- Demonstration-heavy
- Simple process experiments
- No failure rate
- Take aways

Middles (4th- 8th Grade)
- Hands-on
- Instruction-based experimentation
- Controlled Freedom

Teens (6th – 12th Grade)
- Freedom, with directions
- Creativity
- Competition
- Exchange of Responsibility

Family
- Everyone participates
- Multi-skill Level
- Encourages Discussion
- Patron-led
Featured STEAM Storytime: Outer Space!

https://steminlibraries.com/2015/10/10/week-nineteen-steam-storytime-outer-space/
Featured STEAM Storytime: Germs!

https://steminlibraries.com/2017/12/12/week-sixty-nine-steam-storytime-germs/
Featured STEAM Storytime: Rain!

https://steminlibraries.com/2015/08/27/week-four-steam-storytime-rain/
Science Explorers Jr.

1st-3rd Graders
Science Explorers Jr.

Featured 1st-3rd Grade Program: Paleontology

https://steminlibraries.com/2015/10/01/week-fifteen-lets-be-paleontologists/
Science Explorers Jr.

Featured 1st-3rd Grade Program: Balance

Oodles of Program Choices!

Featured 1st-3rd Grade Program: Circus Bridges or Wizard Science

https://steminlibraries.com/2017/12/12/week-seventy-circus-bridges/
Tween Science Explorers

4th – 6th Graders
Tween Science Explorers

Featured 4th – 6th Grade Program:

Programming Without Computers

https://steminlibraries.com/2015/03/14/week-two-computer-programming-unplugged/
Tween Science Explorers

Featured 4th – 6th Grade Program:

Roller Coasters

**Tween Science Explorers**

**Featured 4th – 6th Grade Program:**

**Engineering in a Bag**

[Link to the article: https://steminlibraries.com/2017/12/11/week-sixty-eight-engineering-mystery-bags-and-rube-goldberg-machines/]
Science Explorers

Featured 7th Grade and Up Program:

Crash Test Dummies

https://steminlibraries.com/2017/12/12/week-seventy-one-crash-test-dummies/
Science Explorers

Featured 7th Grade and Up Program:

Arcade Champions

https://steminlibraries.com/2016/11/06/week-sixty-one-arcade-champions/
Family Science
Family Science

Featured Family Program:

Fun Family Science

https://steminlibraries.com/2015/09/05/week-seven-fun-family-science/
Family Science

Featured Family Program:

Structures

Remember...

If everything fails, just say “It’s an experiment!”

That is the beauty of science.
P.S.  www.steminlibraries.com
Any Questions?

(We didn’t have a picture for this slide, so here we are with a penguin. Why? Because PENGUIN!)
THANK YOU!

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