



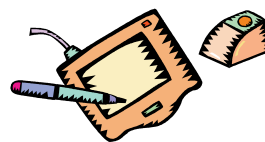
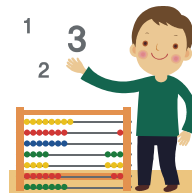
Exploring Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math careers

Elementary

parents

It's All About Creating Interest! The elementary years should emphasize getting excited about activities that encourage science and math.

- Step away from the video game! Some of the “classic” board games like Life or Monopoly encourage math and critical reasoning.
- Make your child responsible for managing the budget for a family outing. Talk about how much the trip will cost, how much to allot for food and activities, and give each family member an allowance—even Mom and Dad!
- Start a nature collection with your child. It could be rocks, leaves, flowers, insects, etc. from a nearby park. You can even start a photographed nature collection (perhaps the creepy-crawlies you may not want brought home!)
- Make it a point to turn off the tv and computer and go outside. Check out books on astronomy from the library, and on a clear night, lay out a blanket on the lawn and try to identify some constellations.
- Before you junk that old computer, allow your child to take it apart and tinker. See how many parts you can identify!
- Validate that it's o.k. is something is hard—don't be afraid!
- Many local farms have free tours; it's a wonderful way to encourage your child in the areas of animal science, botany, crop science, etc.
- If summer camp is an option for your family, choose one that also lets your child explore STEM as well as swimming, fishing, hiking, etc. There are many held throughout the state each year.



IMPORTANT HINT!
5th Grade is called the “transition year” by many teachers. This is the year they check for mastery of necessary skills and ensure that your child is ready for middle school. Emphasize problem solving at home . . . It's worth the effort and your patience!

Check out VA Career VIEW's website for fun games, activities, and opportunities to explore STEM careers with your child:

www.vacareerview.org