

**Tips, benefits and limitations for STEM activities…**

**Tips:**

Groups 2-4 kids.

Make criteria for the challenge…3ish must haves and 3ish must nots.

60-90 minutes (5-10 min. planning+ 30/40 min. building+20 min. reflect and discuss)

Ok to not be finished building because some will never be finished.

Understand that is will be frustrating at times…solving problems is what we want- from trial and error we grow those brain synapses!

Don’t touch their building, only guide/suggest with words.

Do the whole STEM challenge AGAIN…there is a beauty to trying something again and learning from the first try.

**Limitations:** Resources to learn, practice and complete large tasks with large classes. But more than that is…TIME! Curriculum is hard enough to squeeze into the time we have at school. I try to meet both curriculum with the activities but it still takes more time than we have. Due to the due required for collaborating, building, revising, analyzing, reflection, etc. STEM activities are only able to be done once a marking period.

**Benefits:** FUN!! Creativity! Teamwork! Jobs in the real world are interdisciplinary. We need to educate children in how subjects integrate and work together. They need to develop diverse skills sets and a passion for exploration and growth.

**Stem activities:**

* Back to school Apple Tower <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQZ_3Oxyka4>
* Thanksgiving <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQZ_3Oxyka4>
* Pumpkin Patch- design tool to clear a pumpkin patch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=260JX03FEOI>
* Corn Cultivator <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmyHVxgr7q8>
* Reindeer relays <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Christmas-STEM-Challenge-Reindeer-Relay-2231449>
* Identity boxes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKA5Abhqwh4>
* Parachutes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KeK4uPS9-c>
* Index card build a tower
* Kerry Tracy videos on YouTube for every holiday etc.