

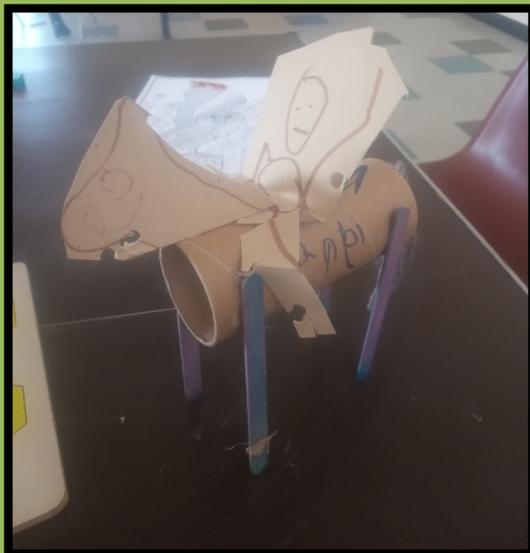
STEM Learning with Dotty's Place

A Season of Growth at Dotty's Place

Spring always brings a shift; longer days, restless energy, and a sense that learning wants to stretch beyond routines. At Dotty's Place, this season has been about growth, not just in skills, but in confidence, independence, and curiosity.

As students return again and again to STEM Game Times and learning spaces, something powerful is happening. They hesitate less. They try more. They begin to see themselves as capable problem-solvers, even when things don't work the first time.

Spring is a reminder that learning doesn't always look neat. And that's okay.



This horse and rider were created by 5 year old, using STEM materials.

What's Happening on the STEM Learning Page

The STEM Learning Page continues to grow as a space for families and educators who value hands-on, meaningful learning. This Winter, the focus was on providing resources that support:

- Open-ended exploration
- Tinkering and iteration
- Writing as part of the STEM process
- Flexible setups that work in classrooms, homes, and shared spaces

This Spring, we will continue doing this. On the STEM Learning Page, you'll find articles, downloadable pages, and simple activity ideas designed to meet kids where they are. STEM is a great way to engage all students, especially during this time of year when attention spans are shifting and energy is high.

Visit: dottysplace.org/stemlearning

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Looking Ahead

As schools begin to wrap up the year and families think about summer, Dotty's Place will continue sharing ideas that support playful learning, exploration, and confidence-building, without adding pressure.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Whether you're visiting a Game Time, reading along, or trying an activity at home, you're helping create spaces where kids feel safe to wonder, test, and grow.



Spring Spotlight: Writing as Thinking

One of this season's recurring ideas has been writing as a tool for thinking, not just an academic task. In STEM, writing often shows up as:

- Sketches and diagrams
- Labels and notes
- Lists, reflections, and "what if" ideas
- Explanations after building or testing

This kind of writing helps children slow down, make sense of their ideas, and communicate what they're learning – even when the learning is still messy or unfinished.

Spring Thinking Challenge

Spring invites us to look at ordinary things in new ways. On the next page, I have provided a simple STEM challenge. It encourages children to slow down, observe closely, and imagine possibilities. With just one everyday object and a little curiosity, big ideas can begin to grow. There are no right answers here; just thinking, creating, and discovering.



Spring STEM Thinking Challenge



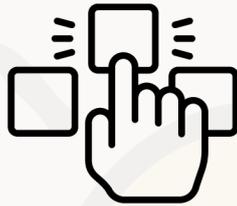
What Could It Become?

Look closely at an everyday object. It might seem ordinary at first... but with imagination, it can become something new!

Step 1: Choose an Object

(examples)

- Cardboard tube
- Small box
- Craft stick
- Plastic lid
- Rock or stick
- Something else: _____



Step 2: Think Like an Inventor



Ask yourself:

What could this become if I changed it?
What if I combined it with something else?
How could it help solve a problem?
Could it be used outside?
Could it be part of a story or invention?
(There are no wrong answers.)

Step 3: Draw & Label

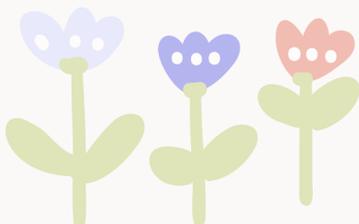
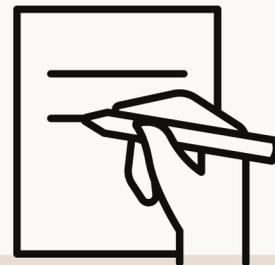
Draw your favorite idea below.
Add labels or words if you'd like.



Step 4: Write to Make Meaning

Finish one sentence:

At first, I thought this was a _____.
Now I think it could be a _____.



STEM Learning Through Play & Exploration
No worksheets required.

Dotty's Place- dottysplace.org/STEMLearning