



STEM Education is important to early childhood development. It enables children to learn through active exploration and to develop a love of scientific inquiry. It encourages an emergent curriculum that is based on the children's discoveries and questions. Research shows that STEM curriculum improves abilities in literacy, language development, math, and executive functioning skills. With the assistance of a L'Dor V'Dor grant we created a dedicated STEM room. This was used regularly to increase the children's exposure to science, technology, engineering, and math. In addition to the dedicated space we had an ongoing theme in our classrooms throughout the year about inventions. The children learned about the design engineering process as well as created working models in our newly added [Snapology](#) classes.

Classroom Highlights

- Our Moonbeams, Comets, and Allstars worked on scientific inquiry.
- Scientific Inquiry example : Ramps and Balls
- Working cooperatively the students problem solve as they experiment with building ramps on platforms of different heights.
- They make predictions and test out their hypotheses.
- They test and document which ball will travel the fastest? The furthest?
- Our Me 2 class experimented with many different materials including magnets.
- Scientist, Engineer, or maybe Mathematician, what will Meriwether grow up to be? At a very young age children are explorers and naturally curious. You can build on that curiosity through science, technology, engineering and math, STEM. We focus on STEM through exploration and play to help understand how things work. STEM is about discovery.
- Today in our STEM room Meriwether explored how magnets work by using a wand and magnet board. Magnet play is an introduction to science and teaches "cause and effect".



We ended the year with each child in the school contributing to an invention museum that was attended by their families.