

Resources for Families and Providers

# CCR&R Resources For Infants & Toddlers



## STEMIE Infant and Toddler Resources

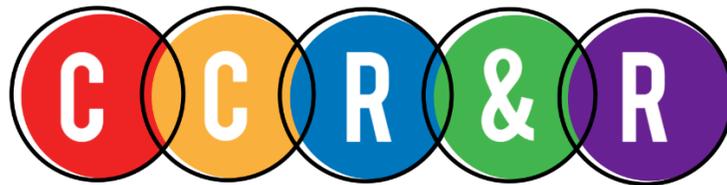
<https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/>

The STEM Innovation for Inclusion in Early Intervention (STEMIE) center is a federally-funded knowledge development and technical assistance center funded to support practitioners, families and faculty with improving confidence and competence in including and engaging young children with disabilities (birth to five) in high-quality **STEM** (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) experiences. One way to begin exploring the wealth of new resources from this exciting project is to visit the **Resources** section (<https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/resources>), scroll down the left hand column until you come to **Developmental Stages**, select **Birth-2** and seven new resources will pop up. Then start exploring on your own as there are many more great resources.

 <p><b>STEMIE</b> INNOVATION FOR INCLUSION IN EARLY EDUCATION</p> <p>Questions, feedback, or just want to say hello? Reach out!</p> <p><a href="#">CONTACT US</a></p>	 <p><b>UNC</b>   <b>FRANK PORTER GRAHAM CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE</b></p> <p><b>UNIVERSITY OF DENVER</b> MORGRIDGE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION</p> <p>Marsico Institute FOR EARLY LEARNING</p> <p>IDEA's that Work Office of Special Education Programs U.S. Department of Education</p> <p>The contents of this website were developed under a Cooperative Agreement between the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. # H327G180006. These contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.</p>
--	---

### The STEM Innovation for Inclusion in Early Education (STEMI<sup>2</sup>E<sup>2</sup>) Center aims to:

- Develop and enhance the knowledge base on engagement in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) learning opportunities for young children with disabilities (0-5);
- Implement high-quality technical assistance and professional development to increase engagement for young children with disabilities in STEM opportunities; and
- Engage partners and stakeholders from diverse disciplines and industry in work to increase the inclusion of young children with disabilities in early high quality STEM learning experiences.



*Resources for Families and Providers*

## Promoting STEM at Home for Young Children with Disabilities

Access [STEMIE's flash presentation](#) and resources on STEM at home for young children with disabilities at *Students with additional needs in remote learning – An "Unconference"*. The event is organized by Benetech, Center for Applied Special Technology and Bridge Multimedia and supported by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, and the Institute of Education Sciences.

### [Storybook Conversations with your Young Child](#)

Use award-winning books to introduce new concepts to your young child. You will find books listed for specific ages that introduce concepts in math, science and engineering.

The ages are only suggested guidelines. For example, many books in the "Babies and Toddlers" category may be loved by older children. If you need to adapt the reading process to match the needs of your child, please see STEMIE's adaptations resource: <http://bit.ly/STEMIEAdaptions>.

Click on the images of the book covers to visit videos of an adult reading aloud each book. Check your local library for digital book lending or this free online digital library: <https://archive.org>.

You can also mute the audio from the read-aloud video if you prefer to read the book to your child yourself and do not have a copy.

Check out the resources STEMIE offers to help children cope with changes resulting from COVID-19: [Talk with Children About COVID-19 Using Social Stories](#).

The COVID-19 pandemic is a very challenging time for everyone, especially for families with young children and children with disabilities. With school being closed, disruptions of the family routines, and limited physical activities, children may feel overwhelmed, upset, and stressed. Children also may have a lot of questions.

To help children cope with the changes resulting from COVID-19, families can have a conversation about what is happening, and teach children how to handle this situation. Social stories can be a useful tool for families to help young children navigate this difficult situation.

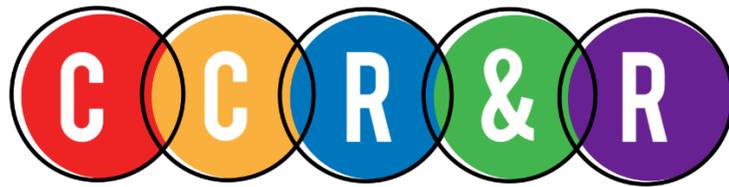
On this resource page, STEMIE provides a list of social story resources that are focused on COVID-19, followed by a list of resources that can help families teach children how to calm down.

### ***Talk with Children About COVID-19 Using Social Stories***

[Seeing Other People Wearing Masks](#) is a story to help young children feel comfortable around other people who are wearing masks.

### ***Help Children Cope with Their Emotions During COVID-19 Pandemic***

[Children may respond differently to an outbreak depending on their age](#). Learn about children's reactions according to age group and the best ways you can respond.



## Resources for Families and Providers

### Seeing other People wearing Masks



A story for children

© Autism Little Learners



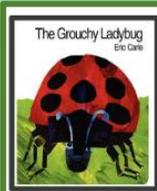
Sometimes I might see people  
wearing face masks at the store.

© Autism Little Learners

1

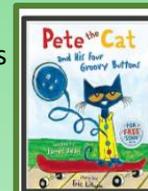
This book is a scripted story explaining why people are wearing masks now. It is an effective way to help young children with disabilities such as autism understand why people they see may look different because they have on a mask and they can't see other people's facial expressions.

It can help parents of young children introduce the concept of wearing a mask to keep children and other family members safe and healthy.

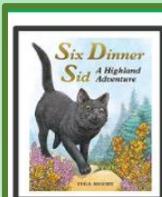


**The Grouchy  
Ladybug**  
by Eric Carle

STEMIE staff has curated a list of award-winning books that embrace everyday STEM ideas accurately and have lots of engaging illustrations and photos to talk about with young children.

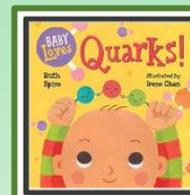


**Pete the Cat and  
His Four  
Groovy Buttons**  
by Eric Litwin



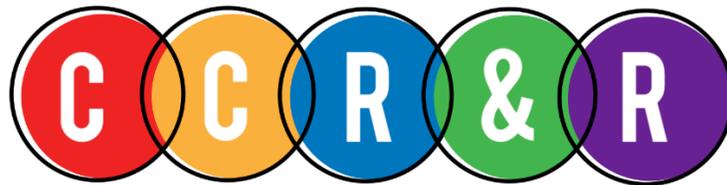
**Six Dinner Sid**  
by Inga Moore

There are tip sheets that include specific question prompts, related activities, and adaptations that you can use. Check out this tip sheet for Inga Moore's [Six Dinner Sid](#).



**Baby Loves  
Quarks**  
by Ruth Spiro

Check out the [General Adaptations](#) to support children with special needs. These support children who are learning to manipulate books, as well as provide supports for alternative ways to communicate and to increase children's attention and engagement.



## Resources for Families and Providers

[Mealtimes](#) are a great opportunity to support STEM learning. Parents or providers can talk about STEM ideas and use STEM words as they feed or talk with babies and toddlers as they start trying solid foods (right around 6 months). Children can learn about quantity (“One more bite!”), volume (“This cup has more milk.”), sequencing (“First eat the banana, then a Cheerio.”), physical properties (“It is too hot. My ice cream is melting!”), and plants (“Carrots grow in the ground, but apples grow on trees.”). Children learn new things when they practice them in everyday routines. Try one or two of the following activities during mealtimes. With a little bit of practice, mealtime can become a natural place to talk and learn about STEM. Use these ideas to set up the environment and materials to best meet the children’s needs.

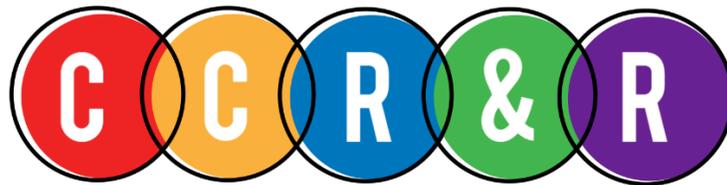


### **4 things families can do with these resources:**

1. Use information about [routines and everyday activities](#) to introduce and reinforce STEM concepts as their children go about their daily activities.
2. Use the Storybook Conversations to read stories and talk to their children about the STEM concepts introduced in the books.
3. Use the [Adaptations for Engaging Children with Disabilities](#) to provide extra support for STEM learning when reading storybooks to their children who may have a disability.
4. Play with their children outdoors and use the [Discovery Play Activities](#) suggested to connect STEM learning to their children’s play experiences.

### **4 things providers can do with these resources:**

1. [Celebrate Black pioneers in STEM](#) by reading the suggested books that embrace and celebrate Black pioneers and trailblazers in STEM with engaging illustrations and photos to talk about with young children.
2. Use the [books by Black authors](#) to introduce STEM concepts to babies and toddlers.
3. Watch the Unconference Presentation Webinar on STEM Learning during a staff meeting and discuss ways to share this information with families.
4. At a staff meeting, discuss the information on ways to engage young children in [STEM learning during outdoor play](#). Set goals for specific STEM topics to teach outdoors.



*Resources for Families and Providers*

## Instructional Modules from the University of Washington's I-Labs

The I-LABS Outreach and Education talent pool at the University of Washington has produced [free learning modules](#) that take an in-depth look at the science of child development. Modules include 20-25 minute narrated PowerPoints with embedded videos, plus a discussion guide and handout. There are over 20 topics including, The Importance of Early Interactions, Understanding Emotions, Language Development: Learning the Sounds of Language, Bilingual Language Development, Temperament in Early Childhood, Foundations of Literacy, Development of Literacy, Early Music Experience, Early STEM Learning, Early Numeracy, How Play Helps Math Learning, Spatial Skills and Reasoning, Learning to Make Things Happen, Race Today: What Kids Know as They Grow, and "Racing" Towards Equality: Why Talking to Your Kids About Race is Good for Everyone. Below are examples of modules for families and providers who have or care for infants and toddlers. These free modules take an in-depth look at the science of child development.



In addition to the modules, there are [handouts](#) available on a variety of topics that explore "bites of science" to try at home. These handouts help families and caregivers make the most of everyday interactions with young children. There are 22 handouts that encourage the healthy development of young children.



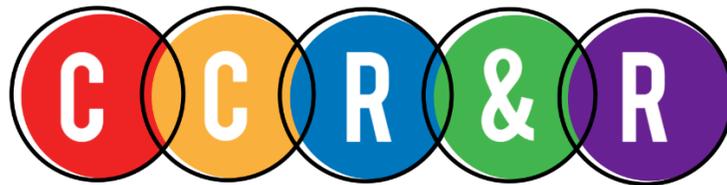
Brain Development



Early Interactions



Imitation and



Resources for Families and Providers

## At-Home Activities

Try these [research-based activities](#) with the children in your care or share them with families. View each activity as a single PDF, or print and laminate the entire set to use on the go!

### About These Activities

Designed for parents, caregivers and home visitors, [these activities](#) are:

- **Adaptable.** Each activity includes ideas to adjust the activity for children of different skill levels or abilities.
- **Easy to set up.** Activities have minimal set-up time and simple instructions for materials you already have at home.
- **Designed to incorporate independent play.** Activities benefit children's and give caregivers or parents a break!

### At-Home Activities

Simple, fun activities that use everyday items to provide rich learning opportunities.

#### Skill Development

These research-based activities are designed to support key developmental areas. Most activities involve multiple skills, but each focuses on three of the following:

 Creativity	 Gross Motor	 Math	 Sensory
 Fine Motor	 Language & Communication	 Problem Solving	 Social & Emotional

INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING & BRAIN SCIENCES

 Water Play	 Tape Puzzles	 Point and Seek
 Dice Dash	 Friend Bridges	 Texture Hunt

### At-Home Activities to Go!

Print, laminate and attach these smaller cards to a ring to keep handy at home or in the classroom.



#### 4 things early learning coalitions can do with these resources:

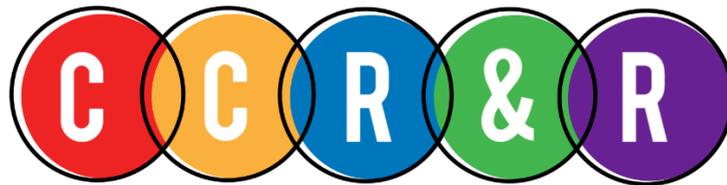
1. Use the modules for professional development for providers.
2. Plan family workshops or trainings using the modules to engage parents in the learning and healthy development of their infants, toddlers and preschoolers.
3. Promote family engagement through the use of the handouts.
4. Use the handouts in designing social media that supports family engagement in the healthy development of children.

#### 4 things providers can do with these resources:

1. Use the modules in parent meetings to encourage families to support their child's learning at home.
2. Use the handouts at parent meetings or on social media to encourage families to support their children's learning at home.
3. Have a **Dads Night** at their center or family child care home and invite dads to bring their children. Use the handouts to show dads how to have fun using the learning activities with their children.
4. At staff meetings, use the module's topics to start discussions about how these topics relate to the teaching of concepts and skills to infants and toddlers. Discuss the use of these modules and handouts for family engagement. Discuss ways to use the handouts for specific topics to help families understand healthy child development.

#### 4 things families can do with these resources:

1. Look at the areas of skill development for the activities. Each activity addresses 3 areas of development. They can choose activities to do with their children that focus on the areas of development in which their children need more practice and support.
2. Learn how to use water play to support their children's math, fine motor and sensory skills.
3. Use the Point and Seek activity to teach their toddlers new words, problem solving and colors.
4. Print the **At-Home Activities to Go!** and put them in a notebook or on note cards. They can keep these at home to use with their children or give them to grandparents or other family members who visit or babysit their children. These activities will help other family members support their children's learning as well.



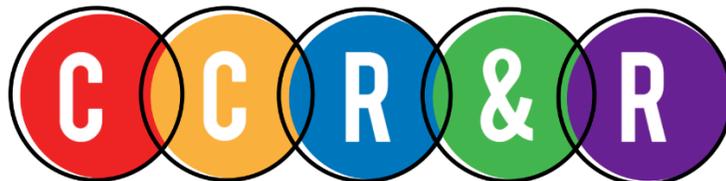
Resources for Families and Providers

**natural resources**

6 “gumdrops” – short, engaging videos that demonstrate evidence-based practices for infants and toddlers

**Natural Resources** is a free, one-way listserv, distributed monthly. Each issue features high quality, readily available, and free resources on a specific topic related to children from birth through grade 3, their Natural Resources families, and the professionals and systems that serve and support them. It now offers 6 short, engaging videos that demonstrate evidence-based practices for infants and toddlers:

1. **Illustrate Variability in Development** - What Can 2-Year-Olds Do? It Depends (video): <https://youtu.be/sJkmnIQYZg>. This video, which shows two-year-olds performing different tasks, is a delightful reminder of how much learning and development takes place in the 12 months between two and three. Watch the differences between younger, middle, and older two-year-olds as they respond to simple requests and see what a difference a year makes.
2. **Underscore the Power of Imitation** – Dad/Baby Pushups (video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5XWwpjlfk>. Watch this clip to see the power of modeling and imitation. To learn more about why these skills are important, read this article: <http://bit.ly/ImitationImportance>.
3. **Cement the Importance of Serve and Return Interactions** - Father-Son Interactions (video): <http://bit.ly/VideoBabyBoyTalking>. After viewing this clip, satisfy your hunger for more information about serve-and-return interactions by viewing this article: <http://bit.ly/ServeAndReturnBBC> or this website: <http://bit.ly/ServeAndReturnKeyConcepts>.
4. **Importance of Early Brain Development** – I Built My Granddaughter’s Brain (video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTeaLL5mg6M>. Use this brief but terrific video to help adults of all generations see the fabulous difference they can make.
5. **Resources for Early Brain Development** – <http://bit.ly/CDCBrainDevelopment>, <http://bit.ly/ZEROtoTHREEbrainEnglish> (English), <http://bit.ly/ZEROtoTHREEbrainSpanish> (Spanish), or <http://bit.ly/HarvardResourceChild>.
6. **New Experiences** – Remember the absolute joy of new experiences, such as rain for the first time? Watch the experience of two different toddlers enjoying rain for the first time. Sure, they’re getting wet, but what are all the other things they are learning? Video: <http://bit.ly/ChildRainVideo>. Universal Design for Learning (UDL) strategies support each and every child. Watch Blowing Out a Birthday Candle (video) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OULuqNgEWmU>. On one hand, this is a cute clip about a birthday candle. On the other hand, this clip brilliantly illustrates the importance of multiple ways to respond, interact, and communicate. These are the principles of UDL. Learn a bit more from this article: <http://bit.ly/PrinciplesUniversalDesignLearning>.



Resources for Families and Providers

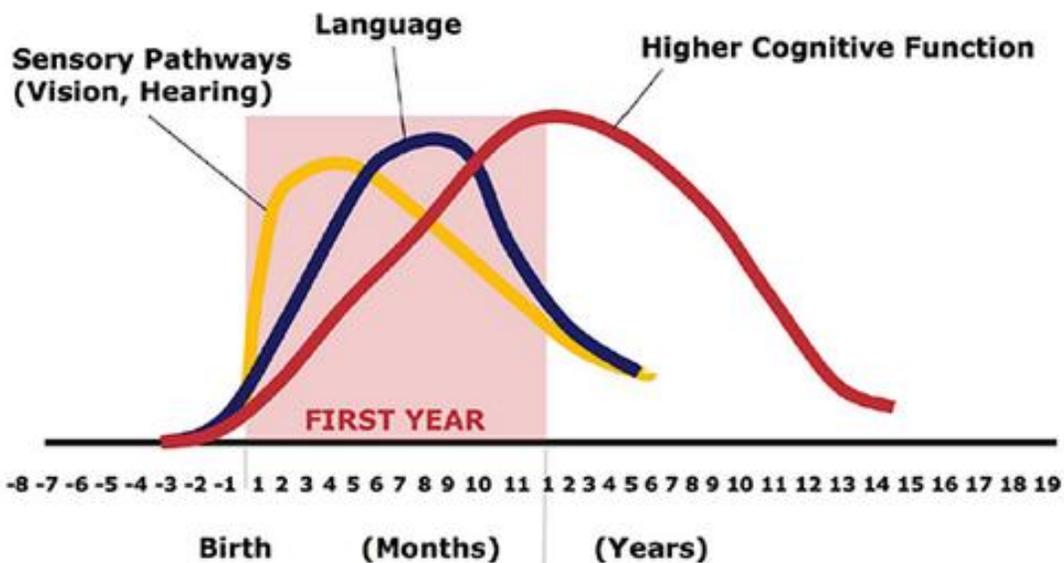
## Resources within Reason

Join this free, one-way listserv provided by the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) to stay informed of new resources available. All resources are evidence-based, readily available and free. Resources within Reason may be freely shared or reproduced.

Past issues are available [here](#).

Sign up to receive Resources Within Reason [here](#).

### Human Brain Development Neural Connections for Different Functions Develop Sequentially





## The Importance of Home Language Series

School readiness and school success for children who are dual language learners are tied directly to mastery of their home language. This series of handouts are designed to provide staff and families with basic information on topics related to children learning two or more languages. They emphasize the benefits of being bilingual, the importance of maintaining home language, and the value of becoming bilingual. These easy-to-read resources from Head Start highlight important information that every adult living or working with young dual language learners should know.

### English versions:

- [The Benefits of Being Bilingual](#)
- [The Gift of Language](#)
- [Language at Home and in the Community for Families](#)
- [Language at Home and in the Community for Teachers](#)



## Resources for Families and Providers

### Serie sobre la importancia del idioma del hogar

La preparación y el éxito escolar de los niños que aprenden en dos idiomas están vinculados directamente con el dominio de su lengua materna. Esta serie de folletos está diseñada para proporcionar al personal y a las familias, información básica sobre temas relacionados con los niños que aprenden dos o más idiomas. Estos hacen hincapié en los beneficios de ser bilingüe, la importancia de mantener la lengua materna, y el valor de convertirse completamente bilingüe. Estos recursos, que son fáciles de leer, resaltan información importante que deben conocer todos los adultos que viven o trabajan con niños que aprenden en dos idiomas.

#### Spanish versions:

- [Las ventajas de ser bilingüe](#)
- [El don del lenguaje](#)
- [El lenguaje en el hogar y en la comunidad - Para las familias](#)
- [El lenguaje en el hogar y en la comunidad - Para los maestros](#)

### Seri sou Enpòtans lang manman

Preparasyon ak siksè nan lekòl pou timoun kap aprann de lang, mare dirèk ak jan yo metrize lang manman yo. Seri feyè sa yo sipoze bay anplwaye ak fanmi yo enfòmasyon debaz sou sijè ki gen rapò ak timoun kap aprann de lang oswa plis pase de lang. Yo ensiste sou benefis ki genyen lèw bileng, sou enpòtans pou kenbe lang manman ou ak nesesite pouw vinn bileng nèt. Resous sa yo ki fasil pou li, mete aksan sou enfòmasyon enpòtan ke tout gran moun kap viv oswa kap travay ak timoun bileng dwe konnen.

#### Haitian-Creole versions:

- [Avantaj lè w Bileng](#)
- [Kado Lang](#)
- [Lang nan Kay ak nan Kominote](#)
- [Lang nan Kay ak nan Kominote](#)

### Важность этой серии раздаточных материалов по второму языку домашнего общения

Готовность к школе и успехи в учебе для детей, изучающих два языка, напрямую связаны с совершенным владением ими языком домашнего общения. Эта серия раздаточных материалов предназначена для предоставления персоналу и родным основной информации по темам, связанным с детьми, изучающими два или несколько языков. В них подчеркиваются преимущества двуязычия, важность поддержки языка домашнего общения, а также ценность полного двуязычия. Эти простые материалы содержат важную информацию, с которой должен быть знаком каждый взрослый, проживающий или работающий с детьми, изучающими два языка.

#### Russian versions:

- [Преимущества двуязычия](#)
- [Дар родного языка](#)
- [Язык общения дома и в сообществе](#)
- [Язык общения дома и в сообществе](#)

### The Benefits of Being Bilingual

Head Start currently serves more than 300,000 children who are dual language learners (DLLs) in 87.4 percent of its classrooms (Office of Head Start, 2011). This document lists some reasons bilingualism is an asset to individuals, families, and our entire society. ([Download the PDF](#))



#### **4 things early learning coalitions can do with these resources:**

1. Subscribe to the newsletter from Natural Resources.
2. Join the one-way listserv Resources within Reason.
3. Promote family engagement through the use of resources in the Natural Resources newsletter and the Resources within Reason listserv.
4. Use the resources in designing social media that supports family engagement in the healthy development of children.

#### **4 things providers can do with these resources:**

1. Feature the Natural Resources and Resources within Reason in parent and provider newsletters.
2. Use the handouts at parent meetings or on social media to encourage families to support their children's learning at home.
3. Use the handouts from Head Start's *The Importance of Home Language* series to provide staff and families with basic information on topics related to children learning two or more languages.
4. At staff meetings, use the handouts to start discussions about the importance of home language and how home language relates to supporting the language development of infants and toddlers. Discuss how to use the handouts for family engagement.

#### **4 things families can do with these resources:**

1. Watch the videos to find ways family members can support children's learning at home.
2. Learn how to use water play to support their children's math, fine motor and sensory skills.
3. Use the Point and Seek activity to teach their toddlers new words, problem solving and colors.
4. Print the ***At-Home Activities to Go!*** and put them in a notebook or on note cards. They can keep these at home to use with their children or give them to grandparents or other family members who visit or babysit their children. These activities will help other family members support their children's learning as well.