



ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations

The parent voice on public education

Resources for Parent Associations applying for ACT Children's Week Grants

ACT Children's Week grants are an excellent opportunity to fund a fun event to promote community involvement and cooperation in your school or preschool.

Find all about the grants on the [Children's Week website](#).

Applications close 9 September.

It's a simple application form and below we have resources to help, including event ideas.

The grants are for funding for activities or events held between Monday 10 October – Sunday 6 November. Children's Week is 22-30 Oct

Information you'll need for your online application

[\(apply on the Children's Week webpage\)](#)

- Name of your organisation
- Briefly describe planned activity (50 WORDS max). See samples and suggestions below.
- Event date/time and postal address of the event
- Who is the event for? ie in-house only, in-house and local community? Or public?
- Contact person for the grant and phone number
- Amount requested
- If other contact for event information, specify.
- Bank BSB, Account number and name

Criteria

- Activities to assist in increasing awareness of the needs, interest, rights and achievements of children and/or young people.
- Activities to promote community involvement and cooperation.

A STEM focus is encouraged this year as the event is sponsored by a STEM organisation. Really helpful resources including posters, cake flags, bunting, and more ideas are here: [Resources | ACT Children's Week \(actchildrensweek.org.au\)](#)

Activity suggestions

Playdate – A 'welcome' playdate for families with children in [school name] preschool or starting preschool or kinder next year. Refreshments and P&C information will be available for parents. STEM activity stations will be set up for the children beside the play area. The P&C President will conduct the welcome and invite parents and children to have their photo taken for Children's Week in the photo booth OR provide [resources on the benefits of play](#).

Morning tea and (surprises) tour – A morning tea for families (with children in preschool or starting preschool or kinder next year). P&C tour of the school grounds and facilities (with surprises along the way). Afterwards, refreshments and children will be invited to listen to a STEM themed story and receive a STEM storybook from the P&C.

Make your own school lunchbox - A gathering for families (with children in preschool and those with children starting preschool or kinder next year). P&C provided lunchbox tips, options, and information. Children can select a collection of pictures of foods they like and try a range of lunchbox foods. Children will be invited to create some fun food and learn some STEM food facts.

Make your own uniform labels - A gathering for families (with children in preschool or starting preschool or kinder next year). Label making or selection of pre-made uniform labels. Refreshments and STEM themes.

P&C Flyer - double sided A5 flyer, portrait/landscape, printed to the edge and trimmed. P&C Welcome, intro, and Invitation to parents. Printing cost approx. \$130-150 for 160-260 copies. Templates available, colours and design according to preferences.

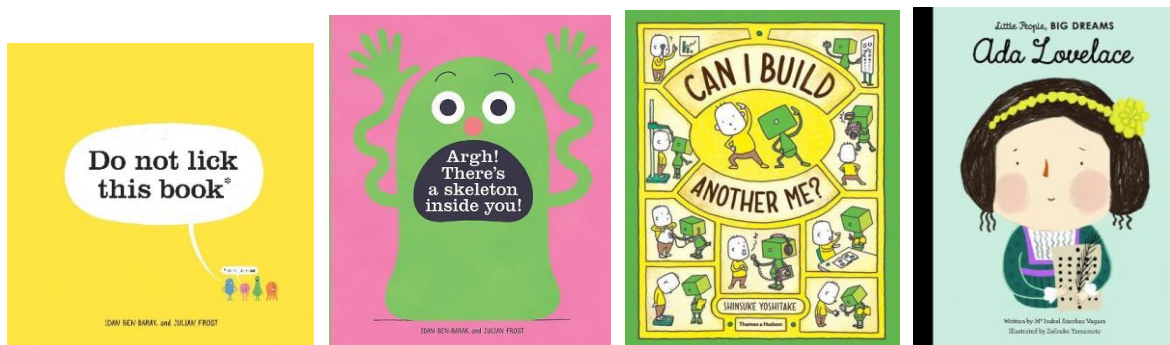
Virtual networking event - for families (with preschool children and those with children starting preschool or kinder next year). Online icebreaker and presentation on STEM in play for preschoolers.

Spring picnic in the garden – Families are invited to come along for a picnic and play, plant a seedling to raise for the garden.

Excursion to the National Zoo and Aquarium – new families are invited to meet up at the zoo to share a picnic lunch with the P&C.

Outdoor Craft with parents and grandparents – Bring the whole family along for some STEM themed crafting.

STEM themed books (hover for links)



Entertainment Suppliers

The Gecko Gang	info@geckogang.com.au	0481 069 896	webpage
Warehouse Entertainment	programs@warehousecircus.org.au	(02) 6260 3626	webpage

20 STEM Activities

STEM subjects that are fun for kids of all ages. These ideas are simple enough for preschoolers to try and offer tons of fun for pre-kindergartners. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math. Sometimes you may hear it as STEAM – it means the same thing.

STEM learning activities can be applied to any age. The main thing is to keep it simple and keep it fun. It doesn't have to cost a fortune either, you can find different things around the house or things that can easily be found at the dollar store.

20 STEM activities for preschool children:

1. **Story books** – There are lots of great STEM learning books to read with toddlers such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. This famous book is a great introduction to life sciences and is fun to read with colourful illustrations throughout the short story. *My Five Senses* is another great simple science-based book for preschool age.
2. **Rainbow water experiment** – The little ones will have great fun creating their own water rainbow! All you need is a packet of skittles, a plate and some water. Line the edge of the plate with the colorful skittles, pour water in the middle and watch as the colours start drawing lines to the middle of the plate.
3. **Indoor rainbow experiment** – All you need is a large glass of water, a small mirror to fit inside, a flashlight and a white wall to see the rainbow. Make the room very dark, then shine the flashlight into the mirror and a rainbow will appear! Try changing the angle of the flashlight or mirror for different effects.
4. **Tin foil boat** – This is both a fun science and engineering activity in one and is one of the top STEM activities for toddlers. All you need is a large container for the water and some aluminium foil. Make a simple boat out of the foil and watch it float. See how many buttons or coins you can put on top before it sinks!
5. **Making bubbles** – Learn the science of adding soap to water and how it can make bubbles. You can try making bubbles with your hands, or with home-made bubble blowers using pipe cleaners. There are even free tutorials on YouTube to make your own DIY giant bubble wand!
6. **Oobleck** – Cornstarch and water mixed together is a super fun STEM activity for preschoolers. When the mixture is played with it feels harder in texture, but as soon as they stop moving it turns to liquid. Mix one cup of cornstarch with two cups of water and a few drops of natural coloring to make it more fun if you want to!
7. **Planting** – Growing plants and helping to care for them is an important part of life science and a great STEM activity for kids of all ages. Try saving the root ends of vegetables and planting them in a pot with soil, or experiment with different seeds like sunflowers or tomatoes so children can watch how they change every day with enough sunlight and water.
8. **Exploring magnetism** – Magnet science experiment and play may sound like it would be more suitable for older children, but it's one of the great STEM activities for preschoolers. Simple games like learning what can stick to the magnet, or making things move using magnets can really spark an interest in how things work and inspire curious minds.
9. **Static electricity** – Learning about static electricity is one of the top STEM activities for toddlers who love balloons! Simply blow up a balloon and rub it on the top of your hair and watch your hair stand up on end! It makes the kids laugh and it teaches them how to create static electricity.

10. **Bug hunting** – For this one you may need a few pieces of equipment from the dollar store such as a net, a plastic cup and a magnifying glass. You can also buy bug catchers for kids. Investigating different bugs outside is a fascinating science activity for young minds. Identify each bug they catch to learn more about insects and their natural habitat.
11. **Create An Exploration Box** - Open-ended activities are great for exploration. A creatively stocked [tinker box](#) provides a preschooler with an endless supply of resources he or she can build with or create with. Ideas of what you can put in the box:
Cardboard tubes, Empty cereal boxes, Wooden Blocks, Plastic spoons or forks from takeout, Plastic cups, Scrap paper, paper shreds, Empty thread spools, Glue, tape, Safety scissors, Yarn, Empty plastic containers. [Anything your child can build or create with can go in the box](#). Then, sit back and see what happens.
12. **Bake Cookies (Or Something Else) Together** - Baking incorporates math and chemistry. Children learn about volume and measurements through helping to gather ingredients. Children fill the measuring cups and spoons. Consider the way that the ingredients mix together and the importance of the different ingredients. Try a few different recipes to talk about what might happen with the different ingredients.
13. **Make Constellations** - Constellations are a fun way to explore [astronomy and space science](#). One way to explore constellations is to [use a paper cup or plastic plate and poke holes through it](#), so that when a flashlight is pointed at it, it will create the pattern on the ceiling. [StarDate is a useful website to help you identify constellations](#). Pick a few, talk about the stories behind them, and recreate them. Then encourage your preschooler to create their own constellations. Have a star show in a dark room and make up stories about the pictures.
14. **Salt Paintings** - [Salt paintings are really neat](#) - especially when they're done on a dark background. You'll need some card stock (you can use an empty cereal box interior for this), a pencil or crayon, some white glue, table salt, and watercolours for this activity. It also helps if you put the material your child is working on in a baking pan or tray to help with cleanup.
Draw a picture on the card stock. Then, children trace that picture using the white glue. Pour salt over the glue, and then shake off on your tray to remove extra. Let the glue dry. After it dries, use watercolours and a paintbrush or pipette to colour the areas with the salt. Notice how the colour spreads as the salt absorbs it.
15. **Toothpick And Marshmallow Shapes** - [Toothpicks and marshmallows make great building tools](#). Not only can you use them as an alternate method for making constellations, but you can also use them for making 2-d shapes like trapezoids, triangles, and squares and 3-d shapes like pyramids, cubes, and prisms.
16. **Build A Fort** - [You don't need an expensive fort-building kit to build a fort with your preschooler](#). Instead, challenge your preschooler to create a fort using chairs and sheets and large cardboard boxes you've been meaning to recycle.
Preschoolers can be as creative they would like with this - if sheets are older, use markers to colour on them. Colour on the cardboard boxes. The only limits are space and imagination's boundaries. As with any of the building challenges, you can create a specific challenge for your child to complete or you can leave it as an open-ended activity.
17. **Color/Shape/Number Hunt** - Numbers, colors, and shapes are all around us. Why not make use of this? You can do this activity indoors or outdoors if the weather is nice. Come up with a picture list of things your preschooler needs to find - something red, something big and round, three small blue things, etc..
Then, [go on a math scavenger hunt for those things](#). This is a great backyard activity for a nice day. This can be a nice activity for siblings. It's also easily modified - can you find something with 6 legs? Something with 2? Spot something with feathers.

18. **Close Observation And Art** - When scientists do experiments, they often sketch what they see. Why not practice this skill by closely observing something - a spider in its web, ants crawling across the ground, a squirrel, even just noticing all the detail in a leaf. Sit and observe, then encourage children to create artwork inspired by what they observed. Ask questions about what they saw, and transcribe it either on the art page or on the back of the artwork.
19. **Pouring and Measuring, Water play** – A great outdoor or bath time activity. Collect some clear containers and old jugs or milk bottles, make sure they’ve been rinsed though. Use a permanent marker to add horizontal marks on the sides so children can practice pouring and measuring.
20. **Grow A Plant In A Plastic Bag** - Gardening can be a great STEM activity to pursue with your child. In addition to the seeds that come in packets, if you have dried beans, you can do a botany experiment. All you need is a clear plastic bag, paper towels or cotton balls, and water. Wet the paper towel, add the seed, put it in the plastic bag, and observe.

Within a few days, it will start to sprout. To continue the experiment past when it outgrows the bag, you can transplant it to a plastic cup with lots of cotton balls so your preschooler can see the roots grow.

STEM in PLAY poster (A4 or A3 size)

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activities for preschool and kinder children

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