

Technology

How can so much fun teach STEM skills?

When you hear the word *technology*, you might think of computers and smartphones, but in the preschool curriculum, *technology* refers to using tools and developing fine and gross motor skills. Tools can help children develop eye-hand coordination and strengthen their hand and finger muscles for writing, typing, and drawing.

Try these Activities!

- **Scissor skills.** Show your children how to hold scissors. The thumb goes in the top hole and the pointer (index) finger should be placed in the lower hole. The middle finger should rest just below the rim of the lower hole to support the scissors. The ring and little finger are not used in cutting.
- **Basic shape cutouts.** Draw three basic shapes on paper (square, circle, and triangle), and let your children cut them out. Save the cutouts (and scraps) for use in other projects.
- **Practice pouring.** Let your children learn how to pour using a small plastic pitcher and a few plastic cups. Tell them that the cups are *empty* and that they should pour the liquid into the cups until they are *full*. Try emptying the pitcher to fill the cups, and then try emptying the cups to fill the pitcher. Experiment with different size cups.
- **Observe closely.** Using a simple magnifier, have children look at something up close. What do they see with the magnifier? What do they see without it?

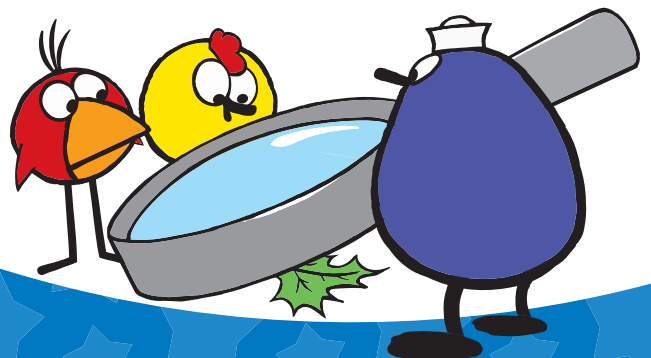
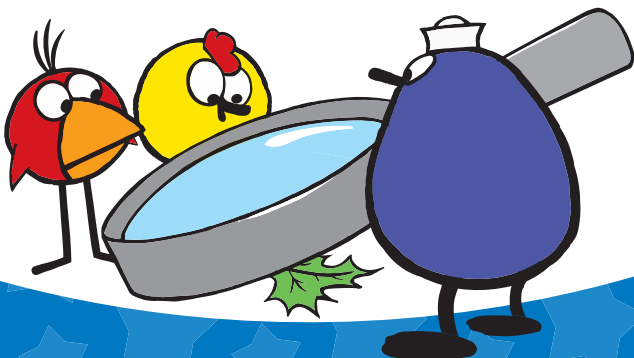
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Tell Children:

- **"Take your time. Scissors are tricky."** Cutting with scissors takes practice! It's hard work for a child, so stay positive and encouraging.
- **"Try cutting out these shapes."** Give some choices of what to cut, or just provide some recycled paper and let your children cut in any way they want.
- **"Wow! You are a good cutter."** Applaud every effort, even if the shapes are raggedy.
- **"Will the cup hold more water?"** Ask the child to make a prediction.
- **"It's OK. Let's clean it up."** Spills and messes are part of learning to do it yourself.

Tell Parents:

Today we used scissors to cut shapes. Do you have a pair of child scissors at home?

Today the children started pouring their own snack and lunch drink. Do you practice pouring at home?

Brain-Building Connection:

These activities will help children improve their visual discrimination and sensory motor skills. Always allow children to discover opportunities on their own. Allow some children more time with the materials if they want, even after other children have moved on. Even the most skilled educators have no way of knowing when a child has had his fill of discovery.

Read All About It:

My First Book of Cutting (Kumon Workbooks)

I Can Do It Myself by Emily Perl Kingsley and Richard Brown

What I Like about Me! by Allia Zobel Nolan

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