

# STORY TIME STEM



## ABOUT

Stories are one way we explore literacy ideas with young learners. Story Time STEM builds upon this familiar activity by giving adults the tools to open up discussion in math and science as well. Together we wonder and play with math and science ideas, asking questions and pursuing explanations through children's stories.

## PROCESS

Beginning in 2015 our partners have been co-designing materials and experiences and trying them out across our contexts. Adults learn to engage children in math and science conversations through professional learning experiences using the developed toolkits. Story Time STEM has been piloted by librarians during story hours, by parents at home, and by teachers in their classrooms.

## CURRENT LOCAL PARTNERS

King County Library System  
YMCA Powerful Schools  
Chinese Information Service Center  
Para los Niños  
Issaquah School District  
Seattle PS Department of Early Learning  
UW Bothell  
UW Seattle INSPIRE Center





## GOALS

- Nurturing what children know about math and science ideas, and how they view themselves as mathematicians and scientists
- Building adult skills for engaging young children in math and science conversation and exploration
- Broadening math and science ideas to incorporate perspectives and ways of knowing from a wide range of cultures
- Opening opportunities for robust mathematical and scientific learning in early childhood education
- Bettering the work in STEM fields by increasing the diversity of practitioners
- Developing durable partnerships across organizations and PK-3 settings



## RESEARCH



There is a large body of research indicating the importance of inviting children to talk about mathematical and scientific concepts, procedures, and problem solving in order to help students understand the disciplines more deeply and with greater clarity. (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (2014); Kazemi & Hintz (2014); Cartier, Smith, Stein & Ross (2013); Smith & Stein (2011); Chapin, O'Connor, & Anderson, (2009); Herrenkohl & Guerra (1998); Boaler (1997); Hiebert, et al, (1997); Lampert (1990))

## FUTURE WORK

- Developing partnerships to include more community preschools working with varied linguistic and cultural communities
- Connecting experiences for children across community organizations, homes, and schools within a single geographic area
- Developing and making available additional Story Time STEM tools and resources
- Expanding research to span multiple years of adult and early learner experiences in multiple contexts