

[ELEMENTS OF STORY TIME STEM]

Books are an opportunity to explore ideas, concepts, and themes found in everyday events.

1

Children see math, science, and literacy in their everyday lives. When we teach children to see the math, science, and literacy in picture books, we support their understanding of how different processes and events occur in the world. Reading books multiple times is important for exploring different aspects of a story and deepening understanding.

Children are natural scientists, mathematicians, and observers.

2

Children ask questions about the world and are naturally curious about the events, objects, and living organisms around them. Using books allows us to explore math and science ideas through discussion.

Children bring valuable ideas to discussions.

3

Children are capable of the majority of the discussion talk and ideas. Use children's everyday ideas and experiences during discussions to explore science, math, and literacy topics and questions. Here, educators take on the role of guide and facilitator.

Open-ended questions support and engage children in productive discussions.

4

Use open-ended questions and activities to engage children in discussion and exploration about their emerging ideas in math, science, and literacy.

Learning is a process - understanding is something that occurs over time.

5

Just as it is important for young learners to explore the joy of reading before they are able to read, it is important they explore the joy and wonder of math and science even without complete understanding of a concept. This is also true for adults!

All adults are capable of teaching.

6

All adults are teachers whom children can learn from. Use these books and materials as an opportunity to become inspired by picture books to engage with children in math, science, and literacy concepts. Anyone can use stories to have meaningful, exciting discussions that support children's learning.