Young Voyagers Go! Kits

What is STEM? Stem stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Science and math activities provide many opportunities for conversation, exploration, and interaction which lead to learning new words and information. The goal of a STEM education is to prepare students for higher levels of education and job skills through critical thinking, creativity, and innovation.

How do I get started? Encourage curiosity and exploration. When your child asks a question and you don’t know the answer, go to the library for help. Choose science toys or make toys at home using art and design. Whatever interests your children, follow their lead. The library has an array of resources to help you get started.

What are the Young Voyagers Go! Kits? The Young Voyagers Go! Kits are backpacks developed by Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL). These kits are recommended for children 7 to 12 years old to get them excited about science and math. The kits are designed to encourage the parent/caregiver and child to actively explore the world around them. Each kit contains several books, a DVD, science tools, a tablet with preloaded apps and a listing of the contents of the kit.

What are some of the topics covered? Architecture, Electricity, Geography, Gravity, Maker, and Time are some of the current topics.

Where can I go to learn more? Here are a few sites to get you started:

- Reading Rockets http://www.readingrockets.org
- Stem Works http://www.stem-works.com
- How to Smile http://www.howtowholem.org/
- Show Me Librarian http://showmelibrarian.blogspot.com/p/all-things-steam.html

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library
ACE = All Children Excel

Research shows that early literacy is an important part of a child’s success in school and MCPL has a long history in assisting parents in readying their children for school. All MCPL early literacy and education programs fall under the umbrella name of ACE – All Children Excel. There are many programs in all our branches that work to help parents and caregivers prepare their children for learning and success:

- Sixteen years ago MCPL began to offer preschool storytimes that showcased techniques to use with the youngest of children to grow readers. These are ongoing at every branch library today.

- Grandreaders is a program that pairs a senior volunteer with a child for a read aloud. For children unsure of their reading skills and not comfortable reading with someone else, several branches offer a chance for children to practice their reading with a helping dog.

- Many branch libraries have AWE computers for children. These computers are preloaded with child-tested software that makes learning science, math, geography and reading fun for young children.

- Discovery Centers at Marilyn J. Praisner, Germantown and Quince Orchard libraries offer families and caregivers a dedicated room stocked with creative playthings and books.

- Parents and caregivers can find a wealth of early literacy information on the MCPL website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library. Look for information on school readiness, how to choose books, read-aloud tips and activities that parents and caregivers can use to help young children get ready to read. Take time to explore the varied resources and databases available on the Kids page on the MCPL website.

- While all of our children’s areas encourage caregiver/child interactions, many have special toys to foster creative play.

- Children have dedicated computer terminals to use in our children’s areas, too.

- The Little Explorers Go! Kits are recommended for children 3 to 6 years old and are themed kits that explore science concepts for the very young.

- The Young Voyagers Go! Kits are recommended for children 7 to 12 years old and are themed kits that explore different fields of science.