December 2025

Matheson Memorial Library
101 N. Wisconsin St. Elkhorn, WI 53121
262-723-2678 www.elkhorn.lib.wi.us

STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) activities you can do at home, school, or the library. For more ideas, visit https://www.pinterest.com/elkhornlibrary/activity-calendars/

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 30 Theme of the week is: Balloons Read **Can one balloon make an elephant fly?** by Dan Richards	**1 SCIENCE** Try experiments from **Super simple things to do with balloons** by Kelly Doudna	**2 TECHNOLOGY** Experiment with static electricity and balloons.	**3 ENGINEERING** Blow up balloons, attach a basket, and drop them off a ladder. What happens when you add weights to the basket?	**4 ART** Make frozen balloon art.	**5 MATH** Try some math activities with balloons.	**6** Take a balloon on your weekly walk and see what happens to it in the cold weather!
7 Theme of the week is: String Read **Pedro's Yo-Yos** by Roberto Peñas	**8 SCIENCE** Tie something heavy to different kinds of string and drop it from a stool or ladder. Do any of the strings break?	**9 TECHNOLOGY** Unwind the individual fibers of the string you used yesterday and compare them.	**10 ENGINEERING** Do a pendulum experiment.	**11 ART** Make string art	**12 MATH** Cut and measure pieces of string. Line them up in order of length. Tie them together and measure them again.	**13** Go on a walk and look for how string and rope is being used.
14 Theme of the week is: Music Read **Before Music** by Annette Bay Pimentel	**15 SCIENCE** Do an experiment from **Science Experiments with sight and sound** by Alex Kuskowski	**16 TECHNOLOGY** Make a pan flute with straws.	**17 ENGINEERING** Make a harmonica with tongue depressors.	**18 ART** Listen to music and draw what you hear.	**19 MATH** Read **Count by 10 to 100** by Charles Ghigna and sing the song included.	**20** Go on a walk and listen for different sounds.
21 Theme of the week is: Ice & Snow Read **Iceberg: A life in seasons** by Claire Saxby	**22 SCIENCE** Read **The story of snow** by Mark Cassino	**23 TECHNOLOGY** Use a microscope or magnifying glass to look at snowflakes.	**24 ENGINEERING** Build something out of snow.	**25 ART** Use squirt bottles to draw in the snow.	**26 MATH** Cut out snowflakes. Remember to make them symmetrical!	**27** Look at the snow on your walk. What do you observe?
28 Theme of the week is: Shapes Read **Catawumpus** by Ann Marie Stephens	**29 SCIENCE** Read **Shape up, construction trucks** by Victoria Allenby then look for the shapes in the vehicles you see out on the road.	**30 TECHNOLOGY** Use scissors to cut out your own tangrams.	**31 ENGINEERING** Build with blocks or toys that are different shapes.	You can still do outdoor science projects in the winter; make sure you're wearing appropriate clothes for cold and wet weather and get outside! Look for seasonal changes, different behaviors in wildlife, and try science experiments with temperature.		

January 2026

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Make a New Year's resolution to try a STEAM project every day. It can be as simple as splashing in the bathtub or helping to make dinner. Talk, observe, measure, and explore!					**2 MATH** Count the colors you see on a walk outside. How many green, brown, or red things did you see?	**3** Write or draw about what you learned this week.
4 Theme of the week is: Hibernation Read **Wait, Rest, Pause: Dormancy in nature** by Marcie Atkins	**5 SCIENCE** Research five favorite animals. Do they hibernate or go dormant? Or do they estivate?	**6 TECHNOLOGY** What do you sleep on? How is it made and what is it made out of?	**7 ENGINEERING** How is your home or school kept warm? Learn about how your heating system works.	**8 ART** Draw pictures of how different animals hibernating or resting in the winter.	**9 MATH** Look at a calendar and count how many days the animals in the book are dormant or hibernating.	**10** Go on a walk and look for animals outside. Do you see places they might be hiding?
11 Theme of the week is: Bears Read **Eat like a bear** by April Pulley Sayre	**12 SCIENCE** What would a perfect place for a bear to live look like? Make a list of all the things they will need.	**13 TECHNOLOGY** Explore BadgerLink, Wisconsin's online database, and look for information about bears.	**14 ENGINEERING** A bear has very strong jaws. Make your own "bear jaws" with clothes pins or binder clips and test them out.	**15 ART** Make fuzzy bears with cotton balls or stuffing.	**16 MATH** Count how many different things a bear eats. How many different things do you eat?	**17** Visit Land of Stories at the library, including the Storytime Math station!
18 Theme of the week is: Ice Read **Glacier on the move** by Elizabeth Rusch	**19 SCIENCE** Fill a balloon with water and put it outside to freeze. What happens?	**20 TECHNOLOGY** Slide on the snow in different places and with different kinds of shoes or socks. Which goes faster? Why?	**21 ENGINEERING** Use rocks, ice, and snow to create your own glacier. Experiment to see how it shapes the landscape.	**22 ART** Put colored water outside to freeze. Draw with it and see what happens.	**23 MATH** Put different liquids outside and time how long it takes them to freeze. Try salt water, regular water, and oil.	**24** Visit ice in two places, like a skating rink or frozen lake. How is the ice different or similar?
25 Theme of the week is: Crystals Read **The story of snow** by Mark Cassino	**26 SCIENCE** Experiment with making salt crystals.	**27 TECHNOLOGY** Use a magnifying glass to look at salt or snow crystals.	**28 ENGINEERING** Borrow prisms from the library and experiment with them.	**29 ART** Try raised salt painting.	**30 MATH** Draw crystals: How many sides do they have? Are they symmetrical?	**31** Do you see salt anywhere outside? What happens when it is on the snow and ice?

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1 Theme of the week is: Water cycle Read **When cloud became a cloud** by Rob Hodgson	**2 SCIENCE** How many water sources can you find in your home, school, and outdoors?	**3 TECHNOLOGY** What technology can you find at home to affect the water cycle? Can you turn water into steam and/or ice?	**4 ENGINEERING** Build a boat that can float in your sink or bathtub.	**5 ART** Draw pictures of the water cycle.	**6 MATH** Measure how much water you use in a day or an hour.	**7** Look for water outside. Is it frozen or liquid? Where does it come from?
8 Theme of the week is: Trees Read **Treemendous** by Bridget Heos	**9 SCIENCE** Compare an evergreen branch and a deciduous branch.	**10 TECHNOLOGY** Look for things that are made out of wood. How many things can you find?	**11 ENGINEERING** Build something with popsicle sticks or wood scraps.	**12 ART** Take some paper and crayons on a walk and make rubbings of tree bark.	**13 MATH** Measure some trees. Look up online the formula for measuring a tree by its shadow.	**14** Identify trees on your weekly walk. How many different kinds can you see?
15 Theme of the week is: Germs Read **Do not lick this book!** By Idan Ben-Barak	**16 SCIENCE** Use glitter for an experiment with “germs.”	**17 TECHNOLOGY** Read **Small Matters** by Heather Kinser and look at the pictures of microscopic bacteria.	**18 ENGINEERING** How does the pump on a soap dispenser work? Take it apart to find out!	**19 ART** Draw pictures of germs.	**20 MATH** Make a chart to remind you to wash your hands. Count how many times you wash your hands each day.	**21** Clean things up! Look for all the places there might be germs in your house and have a cleaning party!
22 Theme of the week is: Owls Read **Owling** by Mark Wilson	**23 SCIENCE** Dissect an owl pellet.	**24 TECHNOLOGY** Use soft material (feather, cloth, or stuffing) to build a paper airplane. Can you duplicate an owl’s wings?	**25 ENGINEERING** Watch a documentary about owls and learn how their wings work.	**26 ART** Draw pictures of different kinds of owls.	**27 MATH** How many different creatures might an owl eat in one night? Make a graph!	**28** Take a night walk and listen for owls.

Did you know the library has storytime kits you can check out to use in your classroom or at home? Science-themed kits like Bugs or Dinosaurs have books, toys, and ideas for learning.
Remember, for young children play = learning so add a little science to your day and help kids learn about their world and spark their curiosity!

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1 Theme of the week is: Dogs Read **Lone Wolf** by Sarah Kurpiel	**2 SCIENCE** Try an experiment from **Dog Science Unleashed** by Jodi Wheeler-Toppen	**3 TECHNOLOGY** Draw an invention that helps dogs and people.	**4 ENGINEERING** Draw a plan for building a dog house.	**5 ART** Draw pictures of your favorite dogs.	**6 MATH** Do you want a dog? Do the math! Figure out how much food they would eat in a year.	**7** Research how you can help dogs at Lakeland Animal Shelter.
8 Theme of the week is: Construction Read **They're tearing up Mulberry Street** by Yvonne Ng	**9 SCIENCE** Find a construction site and watch the workers. Are they using science to build something?	**10 TECHNOLOGY** Practice using tools like a shovel and rake in your backyard or at school.	**11 ENGINEERING** Build something out of Legos. Will it bear weight? How much?	**12 ART** Draw a picture of a construction site.	**13 MATH** How do construction workers use math? Can you use math to build something?	**14** Borrow building materials, like Lego or Magna-Tiles, from the library.
15 Theme of the week is: Seeds Read **Caterpillar and Bean** by Martin Jenkins	**16 SCIENCE** Cook something with beans. Do you have to soak the beans first? Why or why not?	**17 TECHNOLOGY** Use scissors at the library's **Very Hungry Caterpillar Celebration** at **10am**	**18 ENGINEERING** Make a structure for bean plants to climb on.	**19 ART** Make a collage with beans or seeds.	**20 MATH** Plant 5 bean seeds. Do they grow at different rates? Do they all look the same? Make a graph.	**21** Play outside in the dirt!
22 Theme of the week is: Shapes Read **Tangled** by Anne Miranda	**23 SCIENCE** Visit a jungle gym at a park and explore the different shapes that you find.	**24 TECHNOLOGY** What shapes can you find in the tools you use every day, at home, school, and on the road?	**25 ENGINEERING** Build your own jungle gym out of popsicle sticks or with a building set.	**26 ART** Draw all the shapes you know and color them different colors.	**27 MATH** Play with tangrams at the library, borrow a set to use at home, or make your own with cardboard.	**28** Read **Shapes Search** by Melissa Stewart, then take a walk and look for shapes outdoors.

March is a month of seasonal changes. Let kids play and explore outdoors in all kinds of weather, then encourage them to talk, draw, and think about their experiences. Hands-on, outdoor play is an easy way to build observation and critical thinking skills!

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March 29 Theme of the week is: Bricks Read **Billions of Bricks** by Kurt Cyrus	**March 30 SCIENCE** Make your own bricks with mud, ice cubes, or other natural materials.	**March 31 TECHNOLOGY** What tools do you need to make your bricks?	**1 ENGINEERING** Build a structure with your bricks. Does it stay up?	**2 ART** Make bricks out of clay or playdough. Let them dry and then paint them.	**3 MATH** Build a structure with blocks. How many blocks did you use?	**4** Draw a building and note what tools you would use to make it.
5 Theme of the week is: Comparisons Read **Our world is relative** by Julia Sooy	**6 SCIENCE** Set up an experiment that uses time, like waiting for water to freeze or forming salt crystals.	**7 TECHNOLOGY** Learn about tools we use to measure time and distance.	**8 ENGINEERING** Build your own sundial.	**9 ART** Draw pictures of what other people are doing right now in different places on earth.	**10 MATH** Get a box of misc. things and compare them. Bigger vs. smaller, round vs. square, etc.	**11** Practice using a clock to tell time.
12 Theme of the week is: Insects Read **How to build an insect** by Roberta Gibson.	**13 SCIENCE** Observe insects outside. Can you see the different parts of their bodies?	**14 TECHNOLOGY** Use a magnifying glass or microscope to look at insects.	**15 ENGINEERING** Join us at the library for our annual 4K party and learn all about insects!	**16 ART** Draw insects.	**17 MATH** Pick a section of dirt. How many insects can you count?	**18** Go on a walk and try to identify any insects you see.
19 Theme of the week is: Rockets Read **A trapezoid is not a dinosaur** by Sue Morris	**20 SCIENCE** Make an alka-seltzer rocket.	**21 TECHNOLOGY** Read **Go for the moon** by Chris Gall	**22 ENGINEERING** Make your own rocket.	**23 ART** Cut out shapes and put them together to make a picture of a rocket.	**24 MATH** Count all the different shapes you can find in the books you read this week.	**25** Watch a rocket launch online.
26 Theme of the week is: Simple Machines Read **Lift, Mix, Fling** by Lola Schaefer	**27 SCIENCE** Find a simple machine in your home or school. How does it work?	**28 TECHNOLOGY** Build a catapult.	**29 ENGINEERING** Make a base for your catapult—does it change how it works?	**30 ART** Paint and decorate your catapult.	Celebrate National Library Week all month long by learning about STEAM at your library!	

Check out science kits, borrow books on science experiments, and incorporate STEM experiences into favorite stories like Eric Carle (learn about insects), Mo Willems (learn about science with Unlimited Squirrels), or Pete the Cat (counting and colors).

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Whether it's hot or cold, wet or dry, there are lots of outdoor activities you can do in the spring and summer. Outdoor activities and explorations build motor skills and STEM knowledge and you can find lots of ideas at the library in books and kits for outdoor play.					**1 MATH** Make a target to aim your catapult at. Measure how close you get.	**2** Go for a walk and look for simple machines in action!
3 Theme of the week is: Skyscrapers Read **Skyscraper** by Jorey Hurley	**4 SCIENCE** Find five different materials used to build your home. Where do they come from?	**5 TECHNOLOGY** Use a tool to build a tower. Can you use a toy crane to pick up bricks? A hammer and nails to build with wood?	**6 ENGINEERING** Build a tower with Legos. How high can you make it?	**7 ART** Draw a picture of a city.	**8 MATH** Count all the Legos in your tower.	**9** Find the tallest building in your neighborhood.
10 Theme of the week is: Bridges Read **A book of bridges** by Cheryl Keely	**11 SCIENCE** Build a bridge with cardboard and books. How much weight will it bear?	**12 TECHNOLOGY** Make a bridge using tools. For example, a bridge made from play-dough, mud, or clay.	**13 ENGINEERING** Build a bridge with arches. Try using Lego or clay.	**14 ART** Draw pictures of what helps you connect with friends and family.	**15 MATH** Find an arch and measure the angle.	**16** Walk across a bridge. Can you see how was it made?
17 Theme of the week is: Kitchen experiments Read **Amy Wu and the perfect bao** by Kat Zhang	**18 SCIENCE** Pick a recipe to try. Make it twice and see if it comes out differently.	**19 TECHNOLOGY** Use two different tools to cook with in your kitchen like a spatula or whisk.	**20 ENGINEERING** Pick an appliance in your kitchen and learn how it works.	**21 ART** Practice sketching and then draw pictures of the food you made.	**22 MATH** Make a recipe but double or halve the ingredients.	**23** Make a recipe with a grown-up.
24 Theme of the week is: Light Read **Light waves** by David Adler	**25 SCIENCE** Use a prism to look at different items.	**26 TECHNOLOGY** Read a book with photographs. Take pictures outdoors and make your own book.	**27 ENGINEERING** Read **Patricia's Vision** by Michelle Lord	**28 ART** Use chalk to draw around shadows on the sidewalk.	**29 MATH** Compare how fast light can travel to how fast you can run.	**30** Go on walks at different times - how does the light change?

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May 31 Theme of the week is: Rollercoaster Read **How to code a rollercoaster** by Josh Funk	**1 SCIENCE** Watch a movie or read about different roller coasters.	**2 TECHNOLOGY** Pick a game you like to play and write a code for it.	**3 ENGINEERING** Build a marble run with a kit from the library.	**4 ART** Draw a picture or write a story about a roller coaster.	**5 MATH** Change the angles of your marble run. Track the changes each time you test it.	**6** Make a roller coaster with cardboard and recyclables, then race Lego or toys down it.
7 Theme of the week is: Eggs Read **Eggs 1, 2, 3 Who will the babies be?** By Janet Halfmann	**8 SCIENCE** Peel a cooked egg and crack open a raw egg and compare them.	**9 TECHNOLOGY** Can you think of a tool or machine that has a protective shell?	**10 ENGINEERING** Do an egg drop experiment.	**11 ART** Make blown eggs and decorate them.	**12 MATH** Make a graph of how long the eggs of each animal in the book take to hatch.	**13** Go on a walk. Do you see anything that lays eggs?
14 Theme of the week is: Weather Read **What's the weather** by Shelley Rotner	**15 SCIENCE** Choose two plants and make a different watering schedule for each. What happens?	**16 TECHNOLOGY** Make a rain gauge.	**17 ENGINEERING** Play in the sand. Can you build something? What if you get the sand wet? Is it easier to build?	**18 ART** Draw pictures of the same scene in different weather.	**19 MATH** Play with ice cubes. Put some in water, in the sun, in the refrigerator, in the shade. How long does each take to melt?	**20** Make a weather journal for all the walks you take in the summer.
21 Theme of the week is: Liquid Read **Raindrops roll** by April Pulley Sayre	**22 SCIENCE** Try some experiments from **Super Simple Things to do with Water** by Kelly Doudna	**23 TECHNOLOGY** Go fishing; if you don't have water near you, try it in your bathtub!	**24 ENGINEERING** How does a sprinkler work? Build your own DIY sprinkler.	**25 ART** Experiment with milk painting.	**26 MATH** Practice fine motor skills and measuring with measuring cups and droppers.	**27** Play in the water - it might be a lake, swimming pool, or bathtub!

Remember that learning about science doesn't have to take a lot of time, be messy, or need special equipment! You can explore science in cooking, use technology with simple tools, build something with Lego to practice your engineering skills, and practice math skills by counting and measuring.

Check out our list of STEAM kits, board games, and other hands-on activities that you can borrow from the library https://www.pinterest.com/elkhornlibrary/library-of-things-kits-toys-games-and-more/

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June 28 Theme of the week is: Bubbles Read **Super Simple Things to do with Bubbles** by Kelly Doudna	**June 29 SCIENCE** Try different kinds of soap and bubble solution to blow bubbles. Track your results.	**June 30 TECHNOLOGY** Experiment with giant bubble wands.	**1 ENGINEERING** Design a bubble-blowing machine!	**2 ART** Make art with bubbles.	**3 MATH** Make prints with bubbles - can you see the pattern?	**4** Go on a bubble-blowing walk. How do the bubbles react in different places?
5 Theme of the week is: Chemical Reactions Read **Every day, Chemistry** by Julia Sooy	**6 SCIENCE** Experiment with kitchen ingredients to create a chemical reaction.	**7 TECHNOLOGY** Use a kitchen tool, like an egg beater or stove, to make a chemical reaction.	**8 ENGINEERING** What kind of mixers are there? What happens when they mix different things?	**9 ART** Look for things in nature that you can make dyes, paint, or other art supplies with.	**10 MATH** Double or halve one ingredient in a recipe. How does the recipe change?	**11** Make potions outside.
12 Theme of the week is: Gravity Read **Gravity** by Jason Chin	**13 SCIENCE** Make a number of different weights using clay, dirt, rocks, or toys.	**14 TECHNOLOGY** Make your own (toy) parachutes for the weights and try dropping them from a step, wall, or ladder.	**15 ENGINEERING** Experiment with paper airplanes. Try adding your weights.	**16 ART** Do a walking water science experiment with paint.	**17 MATH** Compare your experiments from earlier this week and make a graph of your findings.	**18** Go on a walk and try balancing on different things you see.
19 Theme of the week is: Outer Space Read **If you had your birthday party on the moon** by Joyce Lapin	**20 SCIENCE** Make ice sculpture planets. Freeze plastic cups of ice, then trickle salt and warm water to melt them into shapes.	**21 TECHNOLOGY** Read **Just right: Searching for the Goldilocks Planet** by Curtis Manley. What technology do the scientists use?	**22 ENGINEERING** Use items from around your house to try to make the perfect planet.	**23 ART** Draw a diagram of a rocket	**24 MATH** Read **Let's Estimate** by David Adler. Can you estimate how many stars are in the sky?	**25** Go on a night walk and see if you can identify any constellations.
26 Theme of the week is: Human Body Read **Power Up** by Seth Fishman	**27 SCIENCE** Science of smell! Put items into jars and poke holes in the coverings. See if you can identify them by smell.	**28 TECHNOLOGY** Read **Optometrists and what they do** by Liesbet Slegers. What kinds of technology do we use to help our bodies?	**29 ENGINEERING** Read **I want an apple** by David Harrison. Can you build a system similar to the digestive system?	**30 ART** Trace yourself in chalk outside.	**31 MATH** Read **Count on me** by Miguel Tanco and think about how you use math every day.	**August 1** Go on a walk and think about all the ways you use your senses when you are outside.

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2 Theme of the week is: Maps Read **Mapping Sam** by Joyce Hesselberth	**3 SCIENCE** Go on a nature walk. Take notebooks and stop to draw or write about what you see.	**4 TECHNOLOGY** Make your own compass.	**5 ENGINEERING** Use 3-D objects like blocks and Lego to build a map of your neighborhood.	**6 ART** Use your pictures from your nature walk to illustrate your own map.	**7 MATH** Read **Camilla Cartographer** by Julie Dillemuth and talk about how math is used in making maps.	**8** Use your map to go on a walk again. Can you follow it to the same places?
9 Theme of the week is: Adaptations Read **Out of the blue** by Elizabeth Shreeve	**10 SCIENCE** Read **The Beak Book** by Robin Page	**11 TECHNOLOGY** Read **Orangutan hats and other tools animals use** by Richard Haynes	**12 ENGINEERING** What kind of adaptation would you make for people or animals?	**13 ART** Blend science and art with oil painting.	**14 MATH** Read **Clever Hans** by Kerri Kokias. Can you solve math problems the way Clever Hans did?	**15** Go on a walk. What adaptations do you see in your neighborhood?
16 Theme of the week is: Patterns Read **Pitter Pattern** by Joyce Hesselberth	**17 SCIENCE** Read **Growing Patterns** by Sarah Campbell	**18 TECHNOLOGY** Make your own abacus.	**19 ENGINEERING** Cut up cardboard to make your own tangrams. How many pictures can you make?	**20 ART** Make art prints. You can use vegetables, cardboard, or Styrofoam.	**21 MATH** Read **Bracelets for Bina's brothers** by Rajani LaRocca and make your own patterns.	**22** Go on a walk and look for patterns in nature.
23 Theme of the week is: Squirrels Read **Squirrels Leap, Squirrels Sleep** by April Pulley Sayre	**24 SCIENCE** Make paper gliders that mimic flying squirrels.	**25 TECHNOLOGY** Imagine a machine that moves like a squirrel. What kind of technology would it need?	**26 ENGINEERING** Read **Girl versus Squirrel** by Hayley Barrett	**27 ART** Draw pictures of squirrels.	**28 MATH** Spend ten minutes observing squirrels. How many do you see? What different sizes?	**29** Take a walk and see what else you can observe about squirrels.

Did you know the family garden is open to the public? Bring a picnic, investigate what's growing, pick some vegetables, look for insects, pull some weeds, or play in the dirt!

Don't forget STEAM in your back-to-school plans! Visit the library to find books on activities and experiments and hands-on kits to use in your classroom or at home.

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August 30 Theme of the week is: Birds Read **Seagull Soars** by April Pulley Sayre	**August 31 SCIENCE** Read **Feathers** by Melissa Stewart.	**1 TECHNOLOGY** Borrow a birding kit from the library and use binoculars.	**2 ENGINEERING** Make a bird out of paper.	**3 ART** Draw pictures of birds.	**4 MATH** Observe a birdfeeder and track the birds you see.	**5** Take a walk and observe birds.
6 Theme of the week is: Apples Read **Granny Root grows fruit** by Deborah Chancellor	**7 SCIENCE** Draw the life cycle of an apple tree.	**8 TECHNOLOGY** Read **From apple trees to cider please** by Felicia Chernesky	**9 ENGINEERING** Build your own cider press (or use a juicer).	**10 ART** Use an apple to make paint prints.	**11 MATH** Cut apples in half horizontally, vertically, and at an angle. How does the pattern of seeds change?	**12** Visit an apple orchard or take a walk and look for fruit on the trees.
13 Theme of the week is: Sound Read **Sounds all around** by Susan Hughes	**14 SCIENCE** Choose one simple kitchen object and see how many different sounds you can make with it.	**15 TECHNOLOGY** Borrow a recorder from the library and experiment with the different sounds it can make.	**16 ENGINEERING** Make your own instrument out of straws, canisters, or rubber bands.	**17 ART** Listen to music and draw how it makes you feel.	**18 MATH** Measure the spaces on your handmade musical instruments. What happens when you change the dimensions?	**19** Take a walk and listen for different sounds.
20 Theme of the week is: Airplanes Read **Jumbo: The making of a Boeing 747** by Chris Gall	**2 SCIENCE** Read **Science makes it work: A perfect paper plane** by Catherine Stier	**22 TECHNOLOGY** Watch a video about how airplanes work.	**23 ENGINEERING** Create your own paper plane! Try making small changes, like adding paper clips, or folding differently.	**24 ART** Decorate your paper planes! Make sure that if you add glue or 3-D objects, it doesn't change the way it flies.	**25 MATH** Collect all the planes you've made. Use tape or chalk to mark targets and lengths and then compare how far each one flies.	**26** Go for a walk and see if you see any planes in the sky!
27 Theme of the week is: Leaves Read **Full of fall** by April Pulley Sayre	**28 SCIENCE** Experiment with leaves to find out what color they will turn.	**29 TECHNOLOGY** Use scissors to cut out your own leaf patterns.	**30 ENGINEERING** Build a nest of leaves. How can you make them stick together?	**Oct 1 ART** Make leaf rubbings.	**Oct 2 MATH** Collect different leaves and sort them.	**Oct 3** Take a walk and observe the leaves on the trees.

Fall is here and it's a great time to explore seasonal changes and the natural world. Go on walks and talk about the changes you see, touch, smell, and even taste in fall, including changes in animal behavior, weather, and plants. Track what you see and save it for the next year, when you can compare the information you gathered. Check out books from the library that explain the seasons and talk to friends or family who experience different seasons. Look up their locations on a map or atlas and learn about how seasons vary from place to place.

October 2026

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262-723-2678 www.elkhorn.lib.wi.us

STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) activities you can do at home, school, or the library. For more ideas, visit https://www.pinterest.com/elkhornlibrary/activity-calendars/

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 Theme of the week is: Bread Read **The only way to make bread** by Cristina Quintero	**5 SCIENCE** Mix up a simple bread recipe and watch the chemical reaction as the bread rises	**6 TECHNOLOGY** Look at how different kinds of ovens work.	**7 ENGINEERING** Build a better oven! How would you make the best oven to cook bread in?	**8 ART** Roll your dough into snakes and make pretzels, rolls, and other fun shapes.	**9 MATH** Try measuring different amounts of yeast in your bread. Does it change the bread?	**10** Try baking something outside.
11 Theme of the week is: Slime Read **Icky, sticky slime** by Ximena Hastings	**12 SCIENCE** Using small amounts of different ingredients, mix four different kinds of slime.	**13 TECHNOLOGY** Make a bouncy ball with slime.	**14 ENGINEERING** Can you make slime tough enough to hold a structure? Experiment and find out!	**15 ART** Try mixing glitter, paint, and other things with your slime and see what happens.	**16 MATH** Follow the directions to make slime, counting all your measurements carefully.	**17** Take a walk and see if you can find any natural slimes, like slugs or fungus.
18 Theme of the week is: Pumpkins Read **Let it grow** by Mary Ann Fraser	**19 SCIENCE** Cook a pumpkin and observe how the texture and flavor changes.	**20 TECHNOLOGY** With an adult's help, use different tools to carve a pumpkin. Which works best?	**21 ENGINEERING** Try some physics experiments with pumpkins - rolling, hanging them like a pendulum, or stacking small ones.	**22 ART** Paint or carve a pumpkin.	**23 MATH** Count all the seeds in a pumpkin.	**24** Visit a pumpkin patch and observe how they grow.
25 Theme of the week is: LEGO Read a how-to-build Lego book from the JPOP section.	**26 SCIENCE** Build a boat out of Lego and experiment with how it floats.	**27 TECHNOLOGY** Watch a video about how LEGO is made.	**28 ENGINEERING** Build different vehicles with Lego and see which one goes faster.	**29 ART** Can you make a picture with Lego pieces? (Perler bead patterns work well for this!)	**30 MATH** Count and sort Lego pieces.	**31** Write or draw about what you learned this week.

If your little ones are nervous about scary things, this is a great time to talk about the science behind the spookiness so they can have fun with the make-believe of the season while knowing the real facts. This is also a good time to collect sticks, acorns, pinecones, and other natural wonders to play with and investigate indoors during the fall and winter.

November 2026

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Theme of the week is: Recycling Read **I'm trying to love garbage** by Bethany Barton	**2 SCIENCE** Read **Can I recycle this?** by Jennie Romer. Look at some of your trash - can it be recycled?	**3 TECHNOLOGY** Read **Recycling Day** by Polly Faber	**4 ENGINEERING** Build something with recycled cardboard.	**5 ART** Make art with recycled materials.	**6 MATH** Count how many things you throw away each week. Can any of them be recycled? How long will it take them to decompose?	**7** Take a walk and pick up trash in your neighborhood to recycle.
8 Theme of the week is: Frogs Read **We are the wibbly!** by Sarah Tagholm	**9 SCIENCE** Research what frogs live in Wisconsin. What are they doing in the winter?	**10 TECHNOLOGY** Use paperclips to make your own hopping frogs.	**11 ENGINEERING** Read **Safe Crossing** by Kari Percival and design your own frog crossing.	**12 ART** Draw different frogs. How many patterns can you make?	**13 MATH** Practice subtraction with the song "Five green and speckled frogs".	**14** Take a walk and see if there are any frog habitats near you.
15 Theme of the week is: Sports Read **Karate Kids** by Holly Sterling	**16 SCIENCE** Read **Science, Matter, and the Baseball Park** by Catherine Ciocci	**17 TECHNOLOGY** How is technology used to create the tools of your favorite sport?	**18 ENGINEERING** Design your own mini-golf game.	**19 ART** Create a new mascot or uniform for your favorite sports team.	**20 MATH** How is math used in your favorite sport?	**21** Play a game outside.
22 Theme of the week is: Patterns Read **Pitter Pattern** by Joyce Hesselberth	**23 SCIENCE** Read **Mysterious patterns** by Sarah Campbell	**24 TECHNOLOGY** Make a pattern with a tool - it can be as simple as dots with a pencil.	**25 ENGINEERING** Build a wall with a repeating pattern; Legos are great to use for this project!	**26 ART** Create art with patterns.	**27 MATH** Read **Growing patterns** by Sarah Campbell	**28** Take a walk and see if you can find any patterns in nature.

If you are planning to spend time in the kitchen during the upcoming holidays, encourage your little ones to join you. Cooking is a great way to learn about chemical reactions and build math skills! Practice measuring, dividing, and multiplying ingredients, stirring and mixing, and manipulating dough.

December 2026

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 29 Theme of the week is: Balloons Read **Can one balloon make an elephant fly?** by Dan Richards	**Nov 30 SCIENCE** Try experiments from **Super simple things to do with balloons** by Kelly Doudna	**1 TECHNOLOGY** Experiment with static electricity and balloons.	**2 ENGINEERING** Blow up balloons, attach a basket, and drop them off a ladder. What happens when you add weights to the basket?	**3 ART** Make frozen balloon art.	**4 MATH** Try some math activities with balloons.	**5** Take a balloon on your weekly walk and see what happens to it in the cold weather!
6 Theme of the week is: String Read **Pedro's Yo-Yos** by Roberto Peñas	**7 SCIENCE** Tie something heavy to different kinds of string and drop it from a stool or ladder. Do any of the strings break?	**8 TECHNOLOGY** Unwind the individual fibers of the string you used yesterday and compare them.	**9 ENGINEERING** Do a pendulum experiment.	**10 ART** Make string art	**11 MATH** Cut and measure pieces of string. Line them up in order of length. Tie them together and measure them again.	**12** Go on a walk and look for how string and rope is being used.
13 Theme of the week is: Music Read **Before Music** by Annette Bay Pimentel	**14 SCIENCE** Do an experiment from **Science Experiments with sight and sound** by Alex Kuskowski	**15 TECHNOLOGY** Make a pan flute with straws.	**16 ENGINEERING** Make a harmonica with tongue depressors.	**17 ART** Listen to music and draw what you hear.	**18 MATH** Read **Count by 10 to 100** by Charles Ghigna and sing the song included.	**19** Go on a walk and listen for different sounds.
20 Theme of the week is: Ice & Snow Read **Iceberg: A life in seasons** by Claire Saxby	**21 SCIENCE** Read **The story of snow** by Mark Cassino	**22 TECHNOLOGY** Use a microscope or magnifying glass to look at snowflakes.	**23 ENGINEERING** Build something out of snow.	**24 ART** Use squirt bottles to draw in the snow.	**25 MATH** Cut out snowflakes. Remember to make them symmetrical!	**26** Look at the snow on your walk. What do you observe?
27 Theme of the week is: Shapes Read **Catawumpus** by Ann Marie Stephens	**28 SCIENCE** Read **Shape up, construction trucks** by Victoria Allenby then look for the shapes in the vehicles you see out on the road.	**29 TECHNOLOGY** Use scissors to cut out your own tangrams.	**30 ENGINEERING** Build with blocks or toys that are different shapes.	You can still do outdoor science projects in the winter; make sure you're wearing appropriate clothes for cold and wet weather and get outside! Look for seasonal changes, different behaviors in wildlife, and try science experiments with temperature.		

We hope you have enjoyed these simple activities to help caregivers, parents, and teachers foster STEAM skills and interests in young children. Visit the library in the new year to explore more STEAM and have a great new year full of learning and exploring at home, school, and the library!

Check out different libraries in our consortium. What STEM experiences will you find?

Join the summer reading program and keep your mind busy all summer long! We have lots of outdoor and indoor programs with STEAM themes as well as our collections of circulating kits and books that focus on outdoor activities and science experiments. Ask a librarian for suggestions!