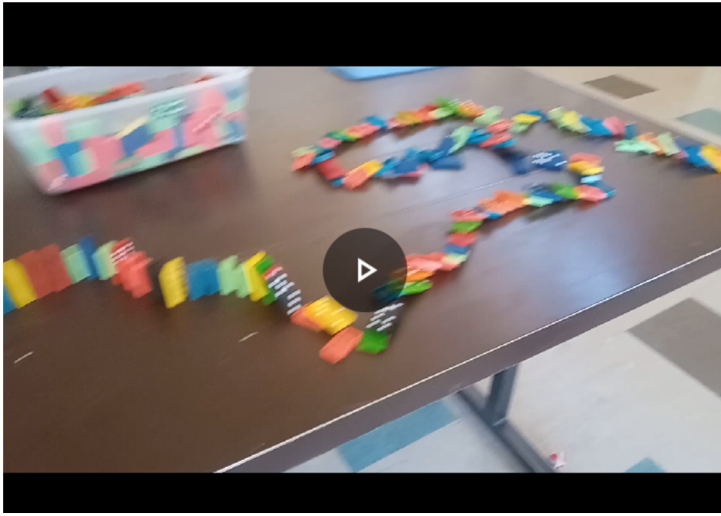


STEM Learning with Dotty's Place



JANUARY NEWSLETTER

A STORY OF AIDAN

This month, I realized something new: STEM truly is beneficial for all students. Case in point, Aidan.

In our January STEM session, Aidan—a lively boy who once disrupted our GAME times and doubted his own abilities—surprised everyone with his transformation. He used to say, “You’re a GATE teacher—you only work with smart kids,” a remark that hinted at his inner belief that he didn’t belong among the “smart” ones. Yet research shows that hands-on STEM activities benefit every learner, even those who struggle to feel engaged. While I might present these activities differently than I do for my GATE students, the underlying strategies empower every child.

I gave Aidan the freedom to explore on his own terms, free from the usual constraints that often lead to failure. Slowly, he began channeling his energy into creative problem-solving. One day, he built a nearly 20-foot domino line with careful precision, drawing his peers’ attention. As I filmed each domino tumbling in perfect sequence, his proud smile revealed newfound confidence and leadership. Aidan is now more excited about learning and more thoughtful in his actions.

To parents and teachers: don’t hesitate to offer STEM opportunities to your more active students. Sometimes, these activities are the perfect way for them to shine. Hold on, keep the faith, and keep STEMming on!

HOT NEWS

OUR NEW COLLECTION

As the new year unfolds, I’m excited to expand Dotty’s Place even further. I plan to reach more students, participate in more community events, and refine our STEM programs. There is so much left to learn, and each new adventure teaches me something valuable. I eagerly await the challenges and joys this year will bring, and I can’t wait to share more inspiring moments with our curious community!



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NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

	<p>Charged Up! A Static Electricity STEM Adventure: Hands-On Experiments, Engaging Facts, And Interactive Read-Aloud For Classrooms & Homeschoolers by Hunter, Gina</p>
	<p>Book - 20241220 ON ORDER On order View location availability Holds: 1 on 3 copies</p>
	<p>Place hold</p> <p>For Later</p>
	<p>The Hovercraft Kid: A STEM Story: An Interactive STEM Resource For Kids And Families by Hunter, Gina</p>
	<p>Book - 20241208 ON ORDER On order View location availability Holds: 0 on 3 copies</p>
	<p>Place hold</p> <p>For Later</p>

I'm thrilled to announce that my first books are now proudly placed in the Pima County Library. Equally exciting, I'm developing a new book about Kai, a curious kid who becomes passionate about rock hunting. This upcoming guide features a simplified rock identification chart and a rock characteristics section—making it an invaluable resource for parents and teachers. These literary adventures are designed to spark exploration and bring STEM learning into everyday life.



DOTTY'S PLACE BY THE NUMBERS

Participants: 262 students and staff
Volunteer Hours: 23
Prep Work Hours: 7
Computer Work Hours: 24
Support Received: Donations from Picture Rocks
Community Center

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