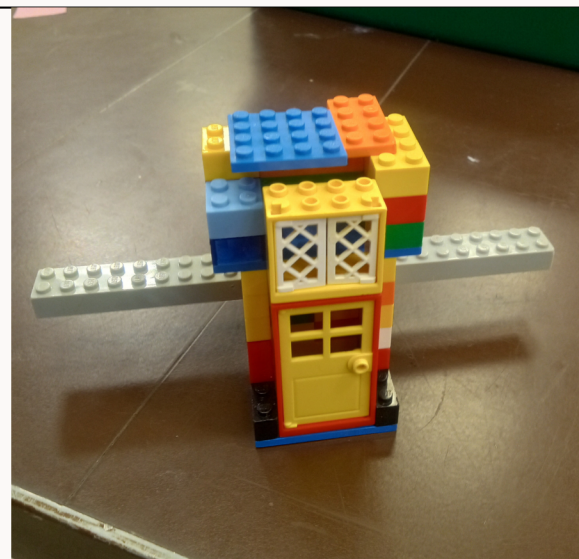


STEM Learning with Dotty's Place

December Newsletter

TYING STEM INTO THE HOLIDAYS

Nothing brings the holiday spirit to life like meaningful, hands-on creativity. This season, I encouraged students to repurpose old ornaments—adding a STEM twist to a cherished tradition. Growing up, my family's ornaments told stories: each one represented a special memory or milestone. I wanted children to experience that same sense of connection, so I challenged them to design and construct ornaments that have personal significance. From simple sketches to final decorations, the process involved creativity, problem-solving, and a bit of engineering know-how. Watching these budding inventors transform everyday items into holiday keepsakes was a wonderful reminder of STEM's power to spark joy.



DOTTY'S PLACE BY THE NUMBERS

Participants: 207 students and staff
Volunteer Hours: 11
Prep Work Hours: 6
Computer Work Hours: 15
Support Received: Donations from Picture Rocks Thrift Store, Picture Rocks Thrift Store, GoFundMe Campaign



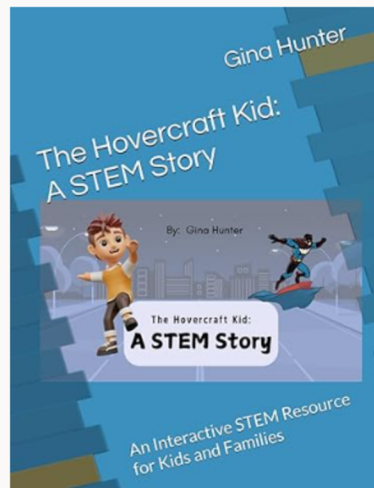
STEM Learning with Dotty's Place

CONCERNS ABOUT COSTS & NEW BOOK FORMAT

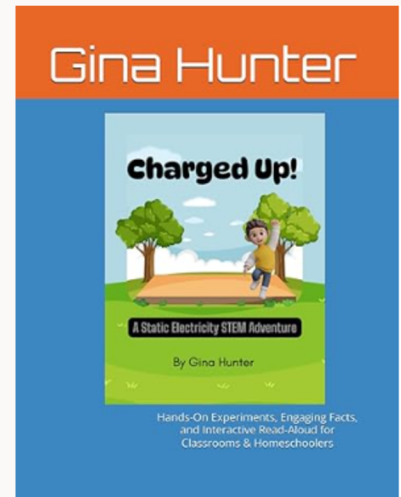
As Dotty's Place continues to grow, I've been exploring ways to keep STEM accessible without increasing costs for families or educators. Shipping and supply expenses can quickly add up, so I decided to transform some of my kits into published books instead. Each book includes a friendly story, fact-filled pages, and step-by-step experiments or activities designed for everyday household materials. The goal is to ensure that anyone, anywhere, can dive into a STEM experience with minimal hassle or expense. Making this change was an exciting challenge, and I'm thrilled to offer a more budget-friendly option for curious minds everywhere.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW BOOKS!

I'm happy to announce that these STEM-themed books are now available on Amazon! Each one contains an engaging story to spark curiosity, informative fact pages that deepen understanding, and hands-on activities that bring those concepts to life. It's the perfect way to learn, read, and play all at once. If you'd like a virtual read-aloud for your class, homeschool group, or community, please let me know—I'd love to share these stories with you. Just send me a message, and I'll be happy to schedule a session. Don't forget to check out the link on our website or social media.



<https://gqr.sh/aLts>



<https://gqr.sh/Lfyz>

FINAL 2024 MESSAGE

It's been an incredible year of growth and discovery at Dotty's Place. I'm immensely grateful for all the support, encouragement, and participation we've seen in 2024. As we head into the new year, I'm looking forward to expanding our reach to at least two more schools or organizations—and I'd love to partner with a homeschool group willing to invite me once or twice a month for events or activities. Thank you for journeying with me in bringing STEM to more children. Here's to a bright, adventure-filled future!