

Kindergarten - **Use with weekly themes and give students different challenges in blocks center, play centers, partner challenges with task cards. Structure introduction to STEM Bins to limit their choices until they are ready to choose their own Bin or task card.**

Effective Maker Spaces and Tinker Time - **create inventions/prototypes to solve specific problems, allow students to choose what to build & which Bins to use. Combine Bins.**

Keeping STEM Bins fresh - **YOUTUBE VIDEO (posting on Friday), also Teach Outside the Box blog post "How To Spice Up STEM Bins" (highlights listed below):**

Seasonal Task Cards. Something about pulling out holiday themed task cards in December opened up a whole new world of exciting challenges for my little ones. They loved attempting to build brand new familiar structures such as sleighs, chimneys, and trees, and as soon as January hit, they couldn't wait to construct igloos and snowmen. I usually throw in 6 new task cards each month, and it's a simple and low prep way to boost their motivation and interest levels.

Add new bin materials! Another easy way to boost STEM Bins engagement (that's also sure to result in squeals of excitement from your kiddos) is to add new materials to your STEM Bins. New manipulatives don't have to be fancy or expensive. In fact, many I just happen to come across at the dollar store or a garage sale.

And finally, another way to spice up your STEM Bins is by allowing students to combine materials and collaborate with others, especially if they typically work independently. While this can get louder and messier, it works great as a whole class reward and fits best in a more unstructured time of your day.

Use with Social Studies standards - **build landforms, national/international landmarks, homes around the world, create a map of your creation labeling cardinal directions and drawing it on a map grid, connect to Information Processing Skills and have students use their creation to discuss the build in a chronological format.**

STEM integration across all subjects - **YOUTUBE VIDEO about Literacy**

ESL usage - **I have Spanish and French translations available on TpT if they need dual languages**

Different ways to use (so every teacher ISN'T doing the exact same thing) - **YOUTUBE VIDEO on Different Ways to Implement**

Incorporating literacy - **YOUTUBE VIDEO**

Tips & Tricks from www.hand2mind.com/STEMBins:

Note about the labels

- STEM Bins Labels (set of 16) make it easy to know what is inside each STEM Bin. With the STEM Bins Essential Kit, you will only use 12 of the 16 STEM Bins Labels.

Assembling your kits

- Don't overstuff your STEM Bins. We've included some extra materials so you can refill them as needed!
- Tip: When assembling the paper cup bin stack the cups in 2 towers to maximize the quantity in the bin.
- Tip: The sturdy cardboard paper rolls can be difficult for students to cut. We recommend teachers pre-cut additional sizes, if needed, using a box cutter or serrated knife.

Note about upper-grades extentions

- The Upper-Grades Task Cards are provided for use with students in third grade and up. They contain no photo cues and require students to respond in writing after completing the task using the provided templates. You may choose to open up additional construction tools for upper-grades students such as glue, tape, or other necessary school supplies as they create more elaborate structures. You may also choose to allow them to utilize more than one STEM Bin material in their creations. If you have additional construction materials on hand, allow students to incorporate them into their designs. You may want to create additional Task Cards.

[Here is the link](#) to Brooke Brown's STEM Bins videos on YouTube.