

# STEM

*starts now*

## Building Snowmen

**Recommended Age:** 36–41 Months

**STEM concepts:** Technology (repurposing tools), Engineering (using the design process), Math (shapes, special recognition)

**Materials:** different sized sheets of aluminum foil, black marker, black construction paper, pipe cleaners

**What to do:** Lay out the various materials in front of your child. Give her the challenge: to build a snowman out of these materials. In order to successfully build a snowman, the sheets of aluminum foil will need to be crumpled up into balls and stacked on top of each other. This may be difficult for your child to think of right away. Allow her to explore different options and experiment with different ideas! This is a simple introduction to the engineering process. Once she builds the snowman, she can make a small hat out of the construction paper or draw on eyes and buttons.

**Language and Communication:** As your child works, ask him what is working or what isn't working. Ask him "Why did you do that?" to encourage him to talk about his thought process as he builds his snowman. If he is stuck, ask leading questions such as "When you make a snowman out of snow, what do you have to do?". This may help guide him to the idea of crumpling the aluminum into balls. Don't give him the answer right away! Allow him to experiment and explore. These are fundamental concepts in both engineering and science.

**Expand the Activity:** Try having your child add arms and a face to her snowman! You can introduce different crafting materials to see how she uses them to create something new. Have her make a snowman family or a snowman dog! The options are endless.

