

# STEM

*starts now*

Light

**Recommended Age:** 42-47 Months

**STEM concepts:** Science (physical science), Technology (simple tools), Engineering (engineering), Math (shapes and spatial recognition)

**Materials:** flashlights, small and large portable mirrors, string

**What to do:** Light is everywhere but can you build with it? This activity uses lights and mirrors to design a light pattern around a room. Start in one point of the house. Show your child that the light beam that comes from the light can be redirected with mirrors. Demonstrate this by placing the mirror in one spot of the room and redirecting it to a different part of the room with the mirror. Use more than one mirror and redirect the light several directions to a favorite toy.

**Language and Communication:** You want to explain the parts of the flashlight. Tell them that the batteries provide the power. Explain, "Light travels from the flashlight straight unless it is redirected or blocked." Tell them, "You are going to use the reflection of a mirror to redirect the light." Using these terms may seem more difficult for your young child but exposing them to this vocabulary is great exposure for future development.

**Expand the Activity:** Can you make the light travel out of the room? Use various shelves, string, mirrors and have the light travel out of the room and down the hall way to a new room. How far can you get the one flashlight's light to travel?

