

# STEM starts now

## Springs and Things

**Recommended Age:** 48–52 Months

**STEM concepts:** Science (physical science), Technology (simple tools), Engineering, Math

**Materials:** clothes pins, a cheap wind up toy (you'll be taking it apart), a retractable pen (you'll be taking it apart) other things you may have around the house that have springs. The extension requires a computer and internet.

**What to do:** Explore the springs and what their purpose is to make the objects they're found in work. Take apart the wind up toy and pen and see where the springs are and what they did to help the toy and pen work. If you can put both back together this will be even better.

**Language and Communication:** Talk about the springs and what they look like, what they do and how they help a toy work. This is an exploration activity. Take the springs out and make them bounce around.

**Expand the Activity:** Search "Scientist Profile: Toyologist" at [www.pbslearningmedia.org](http://www.pbslearningmedia.org) to find the video. Let them see how a Toyologist is a scientist and engineer that designs toys using machines that have springs!

