

## STEM Education

**S**cience-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics... Children from 2 to 99 love it! Even without realizing it. A lot of children hate mathematics, but they do not realize that they are using it all of the time when they are flying a drone, remotely operating a toy, using their cellphones, playing games on game consoles...



Since 2014, I have been part of the STEM Academies in Belgium with the goal to make children from 2 to 18 years old get passionate for STEM. A STEM Academy is an alternative to the music academy, sport clubs, etc.

In a STEM Academy we learn to solder and play with electronics, electricity, physics and mathematics in a pleasant and entertaining way. For example, we work with the children to make our own drone, a rocket, a windmill, car alarms...

It is very important to let children taste from STEM if we want to have great technically-skilled people in the future. You will never become a music virtuoso if you never get in contact

with music. It is all about passion, and you cannot get the passion if you never tasted it! The younger you start with an activity, the more you will get passionate about it.

Another topic that needs our attention is the number of girls participating in the STEM Academies. How many times do we hear the girls say: "That's for boys and boys only!" Forget it! Girls love to make things, but they need to be 'girly' things, such as light-giving flowers, laser cut jewel cases, 3D printed jewelry... Girls also love STEM in their world.

A lot of people nowadays put tons of passion into STEM and the STEM Academies. This issue of our magazine contains several testimonies of deeply passionate STEM educators from all around the world. They will show you a lot of creativity that make children warm for STEM!

Our children and STEM are the future if we want to go to Mars soon!

Have fun reading this issue!  
Groetjes,

Wendy