

## Why did we speak to you?

Children in Scotland was asked by the Scottish Government to speak to you to find out your thoughts on how Science, Technology, Engineering (designing, building, constructing) and Maths (STEM) is taught in your school.

At Children in Scotland we think it is important to gather your thoughts on different issues and to share these with the adults who make decisions that impact on your lives. We also think it is important to let you know what we are doing with the ideas you shared.



## Who did we speak to?

We spoke to 71 children and young people from P3 to S2 in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dumfries and Galloway.

We listened to what you told us and shared your views with the Scottish Government.

## What did you tell us?

### Things that help you to learn

You told us that you like to learn in different ways.

For some of you having a supportive teacher was important for your learning.

Some of you also told us that you like to learn when you are doing exciting activities and having fun: "It's fun, you remember it."

### Things that can make it difficult to learn

We heard that there are lots of different things for different people, both at school and at home, that can get in the way of learning.

Some of the things you talked about included: not knowing that you need extra support, feeling like you have nobody to talk to and finding it difficult to cope with homework.

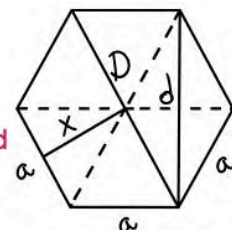
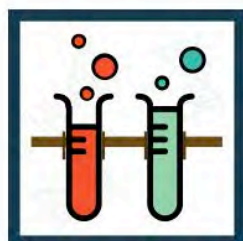
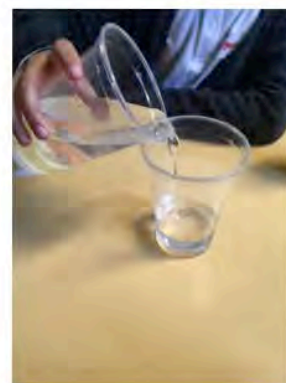
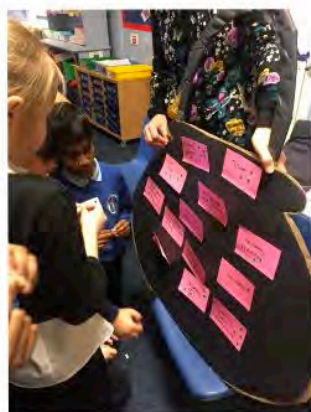
### Finding out about STEM in schools

You were able to talk about lots of different STEM activities that you do in school.

Some of you found it difficult to think about activities in school that involved Engineering (designing, planning and constructing).

For quite a lot of you, Maths was the most difficult and least interesting area that we explored (but some of you really enjoy Maths).

We heard that you especially enjoyed learning about STEM when you were having fun!



## Jobs involving STEM



You told us about the sorts of things that are important in a future job, these included: money (for your family), feeling safe and being able to help others.

Many of you talked about different jobs which could involve Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Some of the most popular included: doctor, nurse, scientist and teacher.

Other jobs you talked about included animator, YouTuber and surveyor (someone who works out the cost of a house and land).



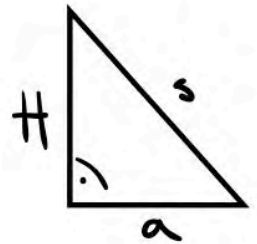
## Things that make it difficult for girls to do jobs involving STEM

Most of you thought that either a boy or a girl was able to do most jobs. However, there were some jobs that you thought were more likely to be done by either a boy or a girl. Some of you thought that an astronaut is more likely to be a boy and a nurse is more likely to be a girl.

It was felt that sometimes it can be harder for girls than boys to do certain types of jobs: "It's easier to imagine a boy doing hairdressing than a girl doing engineering."

Ideas, about different jobs for boys and girls, came from people you had met (who had certain jobs) and from what you had seen on the television and from films.

Based on what you told us, we made suggestions for schools and teachers, parents and carers and the Scottish Government.



## Here is what we told the Scottish Government:

- The Government should provide information and support to help schools to do more Engineering activities and make Maths as interesting and enjoyable as possible
- The Government & other organisations need to encourage more women to become Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths teachers. They should also encourage men into primary teaching
- To encourage boys and girls to think about the types of jobs involving Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.
- The Government needs to provide information so that everyone knows about the different job options. They can do this through schools, the news and other different ways.

