

STEM

CARE

FRAMEWORK



SHOWING C.A.R.E. AT-A-GLANCE

Families play an essential role in their children's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. It has been established through research studies and practical experience that children are more likely to engage in STEM learning and see the value of STEM when their caregivers have positive attitudes toward STEM. Further, children are more likely to achieve in STEM when their caregivers are empowered in shaping their child's STEM learning. While family engagement is important in all learning environments, caregivers who engage in informal programming outside of school are more likely to get involved in their children's learning at home and in school, leading to more meaningful STEM learning and better outcomes for their children.

The CARE (Connect, Act, Reflect, and Empower) Framework, developed by the Institute for the Study of Resilience in Youth (ISRY), in partnership with the STEM Next Opportunity Fund, is a simple way of organizing ideas from research and practice to provide a shared and equitable vision for family engagement in STEM. Use the following overview, along with the additional resources to implement the CARE Framework in your program.



ADDITIONAL STEM RESOURCES

- [STEM Family Engagement Planning Tool](#)
- [Extended Version: Showing CARE Guide](#)
- [LACAL STEM Literacy Guide](#)



ISRY

Institute for the
Study of
Resilience in
Youth



stemnext
OPPORTUNITY FUND





CONNECT

Make STEM learning environments more **welcoming** and **inclusive** for families.



Explain STEM in simple and meaningful ways.



Make STEM relatable for youth and families by connecting STEM to daily living and activities.



Highlight positive interactions and state why families are important for STEM learning.



Celebrate families' contributions to their children's STEM learning.

ACT

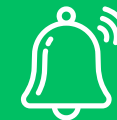
Engage youth and families together in **hands on STEM activities** to foster a growth mindset.



Challenge negative stereotypes around who "counts" as a STEM professional.



Show families that experience or expertise are not requirements to learn or succeed in STEM.



Encourage engagement in STEM beyond school and outside of the home.



Normalize mistakes as part of the STEM teaching and learning process.

REFLECT

Dedicate time for **thoughtful reflection and analysis**, allowing staff and families to identify problems and **design and implement solutions together**.



Create opportunities for youth and families to think critically about STEM education and the workforce.



Recruit diverse role models for families to reflect on what "real" STEM people look like and do.



Model how to ask questions that connect activities with what children and families have learned.



Make reflection an essential routine to continuously improve STEM and family engagement.

EMPOWER

Inspire youth and families to shape their STEM experiences and **pursue STEM learning and careers**.



Support families as partners in their children's STEM education.



Invite family input on program planning and decision-making.



Find opportunities for parents/caregivers to build STEM skills and abilities.



Make it easier for families to find and access STEM resources.