

Listening and Learning with Families

STEM programs with the most impact on youth engage families. The programs that most successfully engage families embrace listening and learning with families. Whether you are launching a new program, developing resources, or revisiting the work you do with families, we encourage you to put listening at the top of the list.

What strategies do you use to listen to families? By sharing examples with others, you can identify new possibilities for listening to and learning with families. Note that while all the examples have been used with success by STEM programs, not every program uses all the examples all of the time. What resources like time, training, and funding will you need to put new ideas into action?

	My Specific Examples	Other Examples	What's needed to put into action
One-on-one conversations with parents			
Phone calls home			
Text messages			
Conversations among families			

	My Specific Examples	Other Examples	What's needed to put into action
Listen to youth			
Listen to responses to prompts sent home			
Observe families			
Home/community visits			
Surveys			
Interviews and focus groups			

Inspired by [Digital Youth Divas and its handouts](#) that connect research and practice

Adapted from [Changing the Game in STEM with Family Engagement](#) by STEM Next Opportunity Fund

[Human-Centered Design: An Innovative Tool for Professional Learning in Family Engagement](#) by the Global Family Research Project