



Caring Adult Network

Parents As Learning Partners

How are you playing roles in your child’s STEM learning? In this activity, reflect on the roles you play for your children. What strategies do you use? Does someone else close to your family play other roles? By sharing strategies with other parents, you can build on each others’ ideas.

	Role & Description	MY Specific Examples	Other Examples
Teaching and Learning	Teacher. Parent teaches child a new STEM skill or concept. Parent possesses more knowledge about subject than does child.		
	Learner. Parent learns new STEM skills or content from child.		
	Collaborator. Parent works with child on a project. Project is a shared learning experience.		
	Non-technical consultant. Parent provides information/advice to child on non-STEM issues such as business, art, or project management.		

	Role & Description	MY Specific Examples	Other Examples
Looking and Responding	Audience. Parent looks at what child is making and doing.		
	Encourager. Parent uses positive language to support youth confidence and continued participation.		
	Prompter. Parent provides prompts, questions, and/or offer specific feedback to further child's thinking or work.		
Connecting to Opportunities	Promoter. Parent showcases and shares child's work.		
	Learning broker. Parent seeks learning opportunities for child by networking, searching the Internet, talking to other parents, and using other sources of information. Signs child up and provides necessary support for endeavor.		
	Resource provider. Parent provides resources (books, software, accounts, etc.) to support child's STEM learning. Resources can be owned by parent or purchased for child.		
	Employer. Parent asks for child assistance in STEM-related activity, for pay or not.		