

MEASURING FAMILY ENGAGEMENT, STRENGTHENING THE LEARNING TRIANGLE BY ELISABETH STOCK.

Education reforms that do not touch on the relationship between students, teachers and parents will fail to be successful. Education reforms that do not touch on the relationship between students, teachers and parents will fail to be successful. National education nonprofit, PowerMyLearning, has created Family Playlists to engage the whole triangle.

This brief article, featured in the Carnegie Challenge Paper, describes the work of national education nonprofit PowerMyLearning. PowerMyLearning views education through a “triangle” lens, representing the relationship between students, teachers and parents, and argues that education reforms that do not touch on this relationship will fail to be successful. Based on this assumption, the initiative has designed measurement tools for measuring the parent-student and parent-teacher connections, which are often overshadowed by the often-measured teacher-student dynamic.

One measurement tool that PowerMyLearning has created is called Family Playlists. Based on TIPS research from Johns Hopkins and leveraging the protege effect, Family Playlists use homework assignments that engage the whole education triangle. Students first complete a set of digital activities in school; they then teach the content to a parent or other family partner at home. The parent provides feedback to the teacher, who can evaluate whether the students needs are being met in the classroom. Family Playlists also allow the teacher to measure family engagement longitudinally, and therefore know and intervene if some families are not participating.

PowerMyLearning worked with partner schools to implement Family Playlists for 18 months and found that 1) family engagement increased and 2) students taught their families SEL competencies like persistence and growth mindset. Moreover, Family Playlists fostered trust and attachment between students and their parents. Based on these encouraging findings, PowerMyLearning partnered with Project Evident to develop a strategic evidence plan, with the eventual goal of measuring family engagement and enabling the education triangle to function as a system.

Stock, Elisabeth. (October 2018). “Measuring Family Engagement, Strengthening the Learning Triangle.” Challenge Paper for the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

[<https://www.carnegie.org/news/articles/measuring-family-engagement-strengthening-learning-triangle/>](https://www.carnegie.org/news/articles/measuring-family-engagement-strengthening-learning-triangle/)



Thanks to generous support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, *Our Neighborhood*, is a compilation of stories and research from the family engagement field. It is intended to be a living repository and guide for STEM Learning Ecosystems and other communities interested in cultivating strong community partnerships to prepare the next generation.

This annotated bibliography was compiled by TIES for *Our Neighborhood*.