

SET A PLACE AT THE STEM TABLE FOR YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES BY LINDA KEKELIS, PHD AND KARA SAMMET, PHD.

As part of the STEM Next Opportunity Fund's Family Engagement Project, this case study features out of school time programs that offer STEM programs for youth and their families. The study points out that very out of school opportunities exist for students and even less offer strong family engagement efforts.

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Techbridge Girls partnered with the California School for the Blind, learning more about ways they could adapt their programming to meet student needs with visual impairments. This resulted in the development of a new curriculum that can be found in [Explore it Afterschool! Technology and Science for Students with Visual Impairments.](#)

While the partnership yielded great accomplishments that served students, Techbridge founder, Linda Kekelis, reflects in the study about the missed opportunity to engage families more.

Another organization, [Deaf Kids Code](#), uses the universal language of coding to engage deaf children in tech learning. The program allows students to learn more about their freedom of expression, creativity and ability to invent through the coding program. Deaf Kids Code founder, Shireen Hafeez, is the mother of a child herself and this offers a significant amount of credibility to the parents of other children in the program.

The case study concludes with eight ways all of our out of school programs can become more inclusive of children of different abilities.

Kekelis, Linda and Sammet, Kara. 2018. "Set a Place at the STEM Table for Youth with Disabilities and their Families." STEM Next Opportunity Fund Family Engagement Project.

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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*.