

Letter One

Dear Parents,

In the STEM Stories program today, your child read a book called *Twenty-One Elephants and Still Standing* by April Jones Prince. This book tells all about the completion of the Brooklyn Bridge. Once the bridge connecting Brooklyn and New York City was completed, everyone wanted to know just how much the new bridge could hold. Ask your child how one man showed people how strong the Brooklyn Bridge is!

During the next session, the students will take on the role of engineers, designing bridges and testing their strength. Ask your child to share the ideas he or she brainstormed about their prototype today and talk about the steps they plan to take to build their model during the next session.

Thank you for sharing your child with us for this exciting program!

Letter Two

Dear Parents,

In the STEM Stories program today, your child worked with his or her team to start designing their bridges. As a team, they planned what the structure would look like and worked together to draw out design ideas. After receiving design “approval,” teams began building a prototype of a bridge design. Ask your child to share the ideas his or her team brainstormed about their bridge today and talk about how they worked as a team to build a prototype!

During the next session, teams will test the strength of their bridge. After testing, groups will discuss what went well and how they could improve their design.

Thank you for sharing your child with us for this exciting program!

Letter Three

Dear Parents,

In the STEM Stories program today, your child worked with his or her team to test the strength of their chosen bridge design that they built last session. The teams watched all of the structures be tested and applauded for each design. At the end of the session, teams reflected on what they liked about their design and how they may change or improve it. Ask your child how his or her finished structure bridge and what they learned during this lesson!

Thank you for sharing your child with us for this exciting program!