

Letter One

Dear Parents,

In the STEM Stories program today, your child read a book called *Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah* by Laurie Ann Thompson and Sean Qualls. This book tells the story of Emmanuel Yeboah, born with a disability in a small village in Africa. With determination and persistence, Emmanuel achieves his dream of biking across Africa with his one strong leg. Emmanuel's goal is to share the powerful message that disability does not mean inability. Ask your child to tell you about one of the "big ideas" from this book!

During the next session, the students will take on the role of engineers, designing a prototype of an assistive device to help people with disabilities accomplish daily living tasks. Now that they know that disability does not mean inability, they are excited to work on this challenge. 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 assistive device. As a team, they planned what the assistive device would look like and worked together to draw out design ideas. After receiving design "approval," teams began building a prototype of a device that could help pull a sock onto a mannequin foot. This simulates a device that a person who has limited hand and wrist muscle strength and control can use to complete an everyday task. Ask your child to share the ideas his or her team brainstormed about their assistive design today, and talk about how they worked as a team to build a prototype!

During the next session, teams will test their assistive device. 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 assistive device they built last session. The teams watched all of the assistive devices 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 assistive device stood up to the test and what they learned during this lesson!

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