

After School Tutoring and Enrichment Program Works

Issue:

What's Been Done:

In 2002, a 34-week after-school homework help/4-H program was offered in New Castle County. During the summer, an 8-week summer camp was offered, mid-June through mid-August, and a lunch program was provided to participants. Each week focused on a different theme, and incorporated the Strengthening Families parenting education program. Community-based adult-only programming included parenting classes, grandmothers/women's support groups, a men's support group, and skill or information seminars on such topics as smoking cessation, money management, and stress reduction.

Impact:

Seventy-seven children participated in one or more of the after-school, tutoring, anger management, summer enrichment, or parent education programs funded by this grant. The 550 homes in the Sparrow Run subdivision have been served by the monthly publication, *The Community Voice*. Thirty-eight unique adult members have attended Parents Who Care classes, Parenting Angry Children and Teens classes, Strengthening Families sessions, community classes, events, or advisory council meetings in Sparrow Run. Because some class attendance is self-evaluated using an anonymous form, some people may have been served by more than one program and some under-counting of the unique number of adult participants may have occurred. A community based "Harvest Day" was coordinated by the advisory council and Cooperative Extension and Child Inc. This event offered games, food, learning activities and resources for parents to get their children ready for school. In addition, a 3 on 3 basket ball tournament was sponsored by 4-H. The Summer of Service program involved 21 youth, ages 12-16, in service learning opportunities.

Impact:

Using report cards and staff or teacher evaluations, program participants were measured in thirteen skill areas, including following directions or rules, solving problems, demonstrating helpful behaviors, asking for help, accepting responsibility, cooperating with peers, expressing feelings in a socially acceptable way, showing respect for self and others, and being able to work. Twenty-seven students were evaluated at the start and finish of the year. Of the twenty-seven, twenty-one students showed improvement in five or more of the targeted areas. Seven participants were in danger of being held back a grade at some point during the year, but overcame this situation. Four youth achieved honor roll for the first time in their lives. This data was taken from staff and teacher evaluations, state testing data and report card data, where available. Teachers responding to quarterly surveys of students involved in the after-school programs report that most parents of program participants attend conferences and school events regularly. Some parents are using additional services and programs being offered by Child. Incorporated and are volunteering with the after-school programs. Although participant data collected from all participants are anonymous, staff interviews indicate that many attendees are utilizing multiple services and events.

Primary Impact area: Extension

Funding: State: Office of Prevention and Early Intervention in New Castle County

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