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Feature Articles

The Accordion Effect: Is Quality in Afterschool Getting the Squeeze?

[Article 130802FA001]Page 4

Fusco, Dana; Lawrence, Anne; Matloff-Nieves, Susan; Ramos, Esteban

Community-based afterschool programs remain places that support youth development. However, in most places quality is getting the squeeze, making it more difficult to meet the growing needs of youth and parents. This article describes the impact of increased external and regulatory pressures that have taken hold at a time of reduced financial and social capital. In this article, we name the factors that are creating what we call *The Accordion Effect* and describe its 'squeezing' impact on quality programming. We conclude with recommendations for reclaiming quality youth work, a practice that we believe must remain holistic and emergent.

Preparing Adults to Work with Youth: An Environmental Scan of Professional Development [Article 130802FA002]Page 15

Gerdes, Jennifer; Durden, Tonia R.; Mincemoyer, Claudia C.; Lodi, Kathleen

This feature article shares the results of a national environmental scan conducted to identify professional development programs offered for school age providers across the nation through the Cooperative Extension System. A purposeful sample comprised of representatives from state extension offices throughout the country included 135 respondents from 48 states. Results showed 139 professional development programs for school age providers were offered through the Cooperative Extension System. The majority of programs offered professional development in the areas of health, nutrition, safety, youth development, and quality afterschool environments. This article summarizes the findings of the environmental scan, including number of contact hours, program scope, and program partners, as well as discussion and recommendations for future work in this area.

How Come the Best Job I Ever Had Was When I Worked at a Summer Camp?:

Understanding Retention Among Camp Counselors [Article 130802FA003]Page 29

Whitacre, Jay; Farmer, James

When attempting to discover a manner in which to maintain employment during the summer, many individuals have realized the job of camp counselor. What begins as a seasonal position may transform into a lifelong commitment to both person and place. For years, individuals have come to appreciate and understand the experiences that occur when approaching particular places. Data, for this study, was collected via in-depth interviews from twenty-four camp counselors from three separate, but similar camps. Phenomenological analysis on the qualitative data was performed to explore the staff retention amongst counselors. This study links sense of place as a salient component of employee retention among camp counselors. By developing a strong sense of community amongst staff, camp administrators may be promoting a deeper, more long-term, commitment among the staff and towards the camp.

Youth Can! Grow Healthy: A Formative Evaluation of a Positive Youth Development Program [Article 130802FA004]Page 41

Carberry, Andrew; Spence, Marsha

This paper presents a formative evaluation of an afterschool program that combined positive youth development and school garden curricula. Novel approaches were used to teach elementary school children about gardening and nutrition, and to engage them in advocacy for healthy community physical activity and nutrition environments. The youth development curriculum included sessions on team building, community pride, healthy eating, physical activity, and advocacy. Photovoice methods were used to allow participants to assess their community and communicate findings with community leaders. The school garden curriculum included nutrition and gardening lessons. Formative evaluation was conducted for each session. Themes of the evaluation were: successful methods for engaging youth, issues in the social environment, and implications for program management. Evaluation results are discussed in relationship to relevant youth development literature to provide recommendations that will strengthen future programs.

Program Articles

Environmental Service and Outdoor Adventure as a Context for Positive Youth Development: An Evaluation of the Crow River Trail Guards Program

[Article 130802PA001]Page 57

Ernst, Julie; Schwartz, Jessamy

Trail Guards, a community-based organization in Minnesota, offers youth the opportunity to participate in park/trail maintenance and enhancement projects. Through these environmental service projects, Trail Guards seeks to foster the following developmental outcomes in youth participants: self-awareness of skills and strengths; self-worth; personal and social self-efficacy; sense of belonging and acceptance; team work and cooperation skills; and a sense of community responsibility. Trail Guards ultimately aims for youth to transfer these skills and socially appropriate behaviors to settings and activities beyond Trail Guards and to participate in the community in other positive ways. A program evaluation indicated Trail Guards seems to be achieving these youth development outcomes, and that the success of the program may be attributed to the program leader serving as a positive adult role model and providing a safe and caring environment, as well as to community involvement. Implications are discussed.

Social Justice and Civic Engagement through Participation in a Youth Health Leadership Program [Article 130802PA002]Page 76

Bryant, Marie J.; Outley, Corliss; Edwards, Michael B.

This program brief examines the impact of a community-based health leadership program on youth participants' perceptions of citizenship in the context of social justice for community-level policy changes to promote physical activity. Youth participants completed journal entries and interviews. Results suggest citizenship developed as participants considered issues of social justice through exposure to new environments and experiences. However, youth struggled with issues of adulthood and relating social injustices to their role as citizens.

Working Toward Peace: A Holistic Approach to Addressing Youth Violence by Pleasant Hill Baptist Church [Article 130802PA003]Page 84

Lee, Joann E.; Culpepper, Rev. Miniard; Julien, Rhona

The prevalence of unintentional injury and violent behavior among school aged youth in Boston compared to the rest of the country is quite similar. And in the past decade, in spite of attempts both locally and nationally to stymie these behaviors, there has been no change in prevalence. Moreover, such behaviors are the leading cause of death and disability among youth and adults in the United States. This paper will discuss the strategies that have been employed by Pleasant Hill

Baptist Church, Boston, MA in response to this trend and will focus on high-risk youth, especially those involved with gangs.

Take an Adventure Bite [Article 130802PA004]Page 96

Brandt, Brian; Murray, Christina

The Adventure Bites - Cooking with Kids program enhanced nutrition curriculum by including a Life Skill development focus and a family night - to improve youth nutrition behaviors. The data was collected using the WSU 4-H Life Skills pre-post youth evaluations, staff surveys, a parent retrospective pre-post survey, and comparison data from non-program sites. The results support adding Life Skills and family night events into youth nutrition curricula. There are opportunities to improve evaluation and do further testing, to determine what the individual impact of Life Skill development and/or individual impact of having family nights had on changes in youth behaviors regarding nutrition.

Resource Review

Using Wordle: A Fun Tool to Show Frequency, Purpose and Direction

[Article 130802RR001]Page 106

Raison, Brian

Have you ever seen a Wordle? It's that funny jumble of words that are all different sizes and directions. Whether working with youth or adults, Wordles can be a powerful visual tool that can help a group discover key themes, help an individual display main thoughts from a paper, and can provide artwork or visuals for reports, marketing materials, etc. You can make one in less than five minutes. Learn how here.

Achieving the Anchor Promise: Improving Outcomes for Children, Families and Communities [Article 130802RR002]Page 110

Dawson, Patricia

Achieving the Anchor Promise offers insight into ways anchor community institutions such as hospitals or universities can measure the impact or key areas where they can play an effective role in bettering the welfare of their communities. Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, this research report highlights more than 75 in-depth interviews with individuals from a broad range of institutions including non-profit leaders, community activists, hospital and university administrators and federal officials. "Best Practices" as well as challenges are reviewed with the goal aimed at helping Anchor Institutions to move from programs to impact and ultimately to delivering benefits to low-income families and communities.