

Family Literacy Pilot

Investing in Your Family Series

Abstract

For our family literacy pilot project, we developed a series called "Investing in Your Family".

This series covered three topics:

- Financial Literacy
- Family Cooking Class
- Family Yoga

Introduction

"Family literacy refers to a continuum of programs that addresses the intergenerational nature of literacy. Under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Title II of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, family literacy programs integrate (1) interactive literacy activities between parent and child; (2) training in parenting activities; (3) Parent or family adult education and literacy activities that lead to readiness for postsecondary education or training, career advancement, and economic self-sufficiency (2014). (4) age appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences."

We surveyed parents currently participating in our program to see the types of courses they would like to see offered and based courses around responses. We collaborated with community partners to promote and host the series, and we held the events at a variety of times and locations to be accessible to our families.



Financial Literacy Class (above)
Banker leads parent time discussion



Family Cooking Class (above)
Practice with measuring and fractions

Product Description & Motivation

Our **financial literacy** session was in person parent time. We served a hot lunch and invited a local banker to share information about account types, budgeting tips, banking services. The PACT time activity was a take home save/spend/share activity.

We partnered with our local Extension Office for the **family cooking class**. The agent discussed stretching dollars in the grocery store and make ahead options for meal planning. We read recipes, practiced math with measuring, and ate the meal we had prepared together.

Our final session was **family yoga**, and we held it on the local community college campus where we also got a campus tour. Parents and children learned about yoga poses and breathing techniques to manage stress.

Baseline & Goal

This family literacy pilot was designed to engage both current and prospective students. While we did not have a baseline from which to measure, these topics were chosen because they were indicated as high demand based on surveys and conversations with our students.

Results

While this pilot was not created to increase MSGs, we were pleased with student feedback and participation. These classes brought in some of the LINC Teaching Skills That Matter initiative and let our students engage with their peers and instructors in a nontraditional setting.

Six students and their families were involved in the events; whereas, one student from MCC attended the event that was held at MCC Muhlenberg Campus. Three students that attended events have continued to attend Adult Education Classes.

We partnered with Madisonville Community College Muhlenberg Campus to host the Family Yoga event on their campus that would include potential college students that need College Prep services along with Adult Education students.

Our program saw successes of Family Literacy participants through one obtained GED, two students still attending classes – one has made MSG, and one participant brought her older daughter to enroll in classes her daughter is now one subject away from the GED.

Discussion

As with other adult education programs, our students encountered some of the same issues that prevent them from attending class: childcare, transportation, illness. Two students even asked to participate one-on-one and take home the family activities when they could not attend in-person.

Students who attended these sessions had great feedback and ideas for future offerings. The top two requested topics were homework help for kids and family counseling.

Conclusions

This was a successful pilot for family literacy in our community. We know that intergenerational learning is transformative and can create communities leading to increased retention, recruitment, and success.



Family Yoga Class (above)
Uttanasana=Standing Forward Bend