

Exploring the use of school readiness activities to support learning over summer

Eagle and Garfield Counties

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Getting Ready For School (GRS) Program

- Designed to help close the achievement gap for socioeconomically disadvantaged young children who aren't as prepared to start school and are therefore at risk of falling behind in school
- The GRS program works with parents and preschool teachers to help them support children's school readiness
- The GRS program prepares children for school by targeting the home and preschool environments
- Parents and preschool teachers receive training in how to engage children in early literacy, math, and self-regulation activities



Internship Goals

- To provide GRS program learning activities to the children and encourage parents to use the learning activities at home
- To explore how the GRS program might complement existing programs and address the needs of the local community

How Does This Apply To Your Education

- Going into college, I wanted to be an elementary school teacher
- I was really interested in this internship because I knew that it would help me achieve goals related to becoming a teacher
- Through this internship, I have gained knowledge and been able to practice teaching children and planning lessons

MIRA Bus and Meal Monkey Programs



- These programs have helped individuals and families facing socioeconomic disadvantage

- The Mobile Intercultural Resource Alliance / Alianza Movil de Recursos Interculturales (MIRA) bus is operated by Eagle County Public Health, Vail Health, and the Eagle Valley Community Foundation
- The MIRA bus provides preventive, medical and health care, and support for social services to families
- The bus stops in a different neighborhood each day and provides various services
- The Meal Monkey Program provides lunches to children every Friday afternoon in Garfield County

Teaching The Children



- While providing the school readiness activities, most of the activities went over well with the children
- Children would sit down and enjoy playing game and then coloring and either reading a story or having me read to them

What You Learned

- What really worked well was having one-on-one time with children
- I was able to observe developmental domains that each child needed more work on, such as early reading skills or self-regulation, and provide activities matched to their needs
- The fact that the activities were play-based and fun allowed children to engage and learn through play



Challenges

- There were times when a group of children of different ages would come, and they would have different learning needs
 - Trying to work and spend time with the children was difficult because they would be engaged in different learning activities
 - When this happened, I couldn't provide the same level of one-on-one attention
- In most cases, I only got to work with each child once and for only a half hour at the most
- Even though I would send some children and parents home with activities, I would not know if they continued to work on the activities or how much it helped them

Next Steps

- Going forward, I think GRS activities could be beneficial to local children
- The GRS activities could be adapted to complement the services provided by the MIRA bus and Meal Monkey programs
- Sending out flyers or putting out posts of where we are going to be like the MIRA bus and Meal Monkey programs did would also help spread the word about the availability of the learning activities and how to access them