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Children's Educational Online Workshop

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Abstract

The Greenfield Branch Library is one of the many Monterey County Free Libraries that offer multiple no-cost services to the community. The library's mission is to serve its community and bring ideas, inspiration, information, and enjoyment to the community. Unfortunately, children are less likely to participate in educational activities when their families struggle financially. This is the case for many families during the pandemic and its aftermath. The Children's Educational Online Workshop aimed to be free academic support for families who cannot afford it elsewhere. My educational workshop took place on April 26 and April 27 both at four pm, when most children were out of school. The ages of the kids ranged from four to fifteen years old. We completed learning worksheets together that included spelling, vocabulary, word and picture matching, and also the abc's which many kids enjoyed. Which also allowed the workshop to be fun.

Keywords: online workshop, child workshop, educational workshop, financial educational assistance, no-cost support

Agency & Communities Served

Greenfield Branch Library is a nonprofit organization that has been around since January 08, 1914 to serve its community. This branch is one of the multiple Monterey County Free Libraries. The Greenfield Branch Libraries' focus is to provide their community with creativity, motivation, information, and entertainment. This library is an environment where everyone has the chance to reach their full potential and bring satisfaction.

All children of all ages, and adults, are equally able to benefit from the library with the no cost services we carry such as books, books in large print, books on tape, books on CDs, DVDs, videos, newspapers, periodicals, and electronic resources are all part of our collection (Monterey County Free Libraries, 2022). The library has publications and movies in Spanish and Vietnamese, as well as books in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean. The Collection Development Policy guides the selection of all content.

Problem Description**Problem Definition**

Due to some of the negative outcomes of the Covid-19 pandemic, many students have had difficulty being successful in school. According to Ochoa (2021), the extended school closings and distance learning increased the educational inequality faced by children in low-income and undereducated households. Some of the contributing factors to this problem would be low income/financial hardship, parents uninformed of remote learning options for kids, and also insufficient time for the parents. These can then lead to serious consequences such as cause dropouts/lack of education, lack of motivation, and they can even see their goals as “unrealistic goals.” Family stability can be threatened by household finances which can have the mentioned negative effects on children (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2021).

Contributing Factors

Low-income/Financial Hardship

One of the primary contributing factors to students having difficulty being successful in school is that families face financial hardship. During these hard times the pandemic has left behind, the last thing on the parents' minds is signing up their children for programs they need to pay for to participate. As reported by Covid Hardship Watch (2021), 23 percent of renters who are parents or otherwise living with children reported that they were not caught up on rent and were struggling with other financial obligations. Therefore, with families stressing financial stability they do not have room to spend money on programs and educational clubs for extra practice for their children. Being financially unstable can turn really bad in a short period of time, which can then cut into the children's lives as well and lead to an unsuccessful education, or even low-paying jobs.

Insufficient Time For Parents

Another contributing factor to children being less likely to participate in extracurricular activities would be parents tend to work throughout the day and are unable to provide transportation for them. Especially considering gas prices are rising dramatically, it can add up by the end of the week, which can take a great amount of money. In accordance with Nair (2018), not only do parents carry those busy lives but those busy days can also cause negative effects on children. Such as psychological effects, behavioral changes and mood swings, and parent-child bonds break. None of these effects have a positive impact on the child's educational future. For this reason, kids are likely to not attend outside school activities or workshops since their parents already have a full plate. This then means they can be at risk for a minimum-wage job that might not leave enough money after a certain time.

Parents Uninformed of Remote Learning Options for Kids

Aside from those two contributing factors, a last factor would be that parents are not aware of the great online opportunities their children can be taking advantage of. After the whole covid pandemic began to occur, many schools, programs and even clubs transitioned to online learning. Online learning can also have great benefits for children. Parents can find a ton of virtual options for almost any kids' summer activity. There are also a ton of academic-enrichment programs offering one-on-one tutoring and online classes for kids of all ages (Corsrillo, 2020). Multiple remote learning options for children can be a new option to parents. This way they can get help from the comfort of their own home. Not to mention saving the hassle of driving from one place to another.

Consequences*Causes Dropouts/Lack of Education*

One of the consequences that can occur from the contributing factors I mentioned would be that children not having enough participation in extracurricular activities can lead to a lack of education and dropping out. According to Basham (2012), early childhood education has a significant impact on children's learning outcomes in the future. If children aren't having sufficient educational practice or involvement, they can begin to lack on their studies. This can eventually lead to dropping out of school because they have no interest in learning or going to school.

Unrealistic Goals

When children grow up seeing their parents working a full day job and hardly cutting it for the bills, groceries, and necessities their first reaction is not "I want to go to school to get a well paying career and help my family," but rather "I need to get a job ASAP so that I can help

my family financially.” This mentality tends to be the main reason students won’t continue pursuing their education and feel they set out unachievable goals for themselves. In reference to Dickler (2021), the pandemic has exacerbated the issue of cost, and an increasing number of students are dropping out. With time passing by, colleges and universities will only continue to increase in terms of price, just like everything else such as food, groceries, and gas. We’ve experienced it before and it can possibly occur again. Children who grow up in financially struggling families don’t always have the option or opportunity to continue their education, and for these reasons they see their educational goals as impossible.

Lack of Motivation

Lack of motivation for school and education can also exist if parents don’t pay much attention to their children’s school because then the children start believing that school is not important, when it is. For uninspired children, stress is the most typical issue. Reduce stress in your family's life and teach your children coping skills. In agreement with Li (2022), the most prevalent source of stress for children is from well-intentioned parents. This is generally how it begins: a child seems disinterested, and concerned parents try to help. They may begin by encouraging and urging, before nagging, punishing, or enforcing artificial consequences. Because of the constant stress, a child who just disliked schoolwork at first now battles to find interest in completing anything. In some cases, it may not be that the parents do not have sufficient time to put into their child’s school as often as they’d like. However, we shouldn’t let the little ones believe that. We should have a positive impact on their learning, not a negative one.

Problem Model

Contributing Factors	Problem	Consequences
Low income/Financial Hardship	Children are less likely to participate in educational activities	Causes Dropouts/Lack of Education
Insufficient Time For Parents		Unrealistic Goals
Parents Uninformed of Remote Learning Options for Kids		Lack of Motivation

Capstone Project Description & Justification

Project Description

My capstone project is a free online children's educational workshop. Children will participate in services provided by the library, including educational worksheets, social coloring, and sharing outloud. After completing some educational activities, live homework assistance will be provided to the children. The purpose of the project is to provide no-cost educational activities to low-income families suffering financially, inspire increased extracurricular participation, and bring educational help to the community.

Project Justification

By offering this free children educational online workshop, the Greenfield library branch gets to provide it for kids that don't receive assistance elsewhere. Possibilities of not receiving these types of services include financial hardship, parents are uninformed or unaware how to navigate workshops, and also insufficient time, which is very relatable. This online educational workshop will positively improve children's educational side of life because they are putting more time aside to their learning practice rather than playing video games all day after school. According to Basham (2012), early childhood education provides tremendous benefits for children and their learning results in the future. During my educational workshop, their mind will be focused on practicing colors, letters, and matching pictures with words. This child involvement can guide them towards great study habits.

Project Implementation

My project plan consisted of two online workshops for children during the month of April aiming to support families who are struggling economically. Before conducting this project, my workshop needed the review and approval of my mentor to get it started. I, the

library assistant, made sure the materials we'd review in the workshop were up to expectations for the children.

The procedure prior to beginning the workshop, during the workshop, and also after were all valuable to me since it allowed me to learn more about my desired age group. I'd like to stick with younger children in my career, and this project allowed me to get a really close feel of what that would be like, which was a great experience.

This workshop was delivered remotely to the children. They were able to join this online educational workshop from the comfort of their own four walls. I first began to create educational activities at the start of January, and I would like to count or label items and materials for the workshop. I then discussed my plans with my mentor, Dawn, and she approved of my workshop, so I sent her all the materials and information she needed. We also spoke about a flier that would promote the workshop I was conducting and include the dates and times of the workshops for children to join. While she promoted the workshop I was able to create a survey for the children and their parents to complete based on how I managed the workshop. Fortunately, I was able to begin my first workshop on April 26, 2022 and my second workshop on April 27, 2022.

Assessment Plan

The overall goal of this project is to build vocabulary, spelling, and word matching for students in elementary school. The educational workshop will be free academic support for families who cannot afford it elsewhere. To measure the workshop's success, I will count attendance and provide a short survey at the end of the session to measure the students' satisfaction. The assessment will be completed on April 27, 2022. I expect an attendance of 7 students and a 45% satisfaction rate. This will provide a baseline for future workshops.

Expected Outcomes

An expected outcome for the Greenfield branch library's educational workshop is to assist families who cannot join workshops or other sorts of activities due to financial issues. My project consists of helping and supporting children educationally by providing a no-cost workshop to keep their brains moving outside of their own class time. The workshop also assists parents financially by not charging them a dime for their children's activities. It's really important for me that families who lack academic support for their children take advantage of my educational workshop outside of school time. I hope at least 5% of the children taking my educational workshop will grow as young students in terms of vocabulary and spelling. My educational workshop will be not only free but also fun and exciting for the children.

Project Results

This project took place through zoom and we covered spelling and vocabulary worksheets along with practicing matching words and images together. Prior to starting the workshop all implementation activities had to first have the approval of my mentor. Such as dates, times, and materials. Five students attended the workshop on Tuesday April 26 and also on April 27. The results from the project were very helpful in determining that we did good work with the online workshop and that we achieved our main purpose which was to help families struggling with finances. Many places charge for tutoring or to get homework help, however that's what makes Greenfield branch library unique. Based on the nine survey responses we collected from the survey data I created for the children and parents to take after my workshop ended, 90 percent of the survey respondents said they are very likely to recommend the

workshop to their peers. There was a 100 percent satisfaction percentage with the workshop and on a rating scale of 1 to 3 they rated the workshop a 3, which I am extremely proud of.

As previously stated, the main outcome the Greenfield Branch Library was aiming for was to help parents, children, and overall families that are suffering economically. By implementing this project, we gave free homework and learning practice services to children from ages up to fifteen. Overall, the project was a success and the expected outcomes were accomplished by the results stated above from the survey.

Conclusion & Recommendations

From the survey results I received based on my children's educational online workshop, I did a swell job. This project should definitely be continued because children were able to socialize remotely and still get their learning through in an innovative way. They all showed reactions of enjoyment on their faces while we were learning and also while we were drawing and sharing. This project allowed children to share their feelings and thoughts on previous occasions they have experienced through the drawing & sharing time. This is of course a great way for them to relieve their expressions. Having another person conducting the exact same workshop inside the library would also be very successful and would improve the project. This allows the children in person and those that aren't able to find a ride to the library to still be able to gain some of the services.

Based on my successful feedback, the Greenfield Branch should continue implementing an online educational workshop to their library branch. This was a positive experience for the library itself and I am sure they would enjoy joining remotely again. My whole experience at the Greenfield branch has impacted me positively and it has prepared me for future opportunities.

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Appendix A

Scope Of Work

Children Educational Workshop	Angelica Bautista			
Task	Date	Parties Involved	Materials/Services	
Create Educational Activities	01/24/22 - 04/01/22	Student	Computer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Count/Label Items For Workshops	02/08/22	Student	Computer/Saved Docs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discuss Plans With Mentor Dawn	02/11/22	Student & Mentor	Computer, Checklist	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Email Dawn The Final Worksheets, Items, & Dates	03/07/22	Student & Mentor	Computer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Create A Flier To Promote Workshops	03/08/22 - 03/29/22	Student	Google Doc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Create Survey Feedback E-Form	04/12/22	Mentor & Learning Audience	Computer, Survey Website	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dawn Will Publicate The Fliers	04/22/22	Mentor	Library, City Hall, Library Instagram	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Begin & Complete Online Educational Workshop	04/26/22 & 04/27/22	Student, Learning Audience	Computer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>