1-1-2004

International Multicultural Projects - Families / Partnerships

Recommended Citation
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MY WORLD, 4-H CULTURAL ARTS, CULTURAL ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY DAYCAMP PROGRAM

Jeanne Brandt*

ABSTRACT:
If children are to live and succeed in a culturally diverse world, it is necessary for them to become familiar with and accept differences in others and have the courage to attempt new experiences. Washington County, Oregon, 4-H offers a series of summer daycamps for culturally, socio-economically and geographically diverse youth throughout our county. The goals of the daycamps are threefold: (1) To provide positive, supervised, summer activities for children in isolated communities with high concentrations of limited resource and minority families who would not otherwise be involved in 4-H, or any other youth programs. (2) To share arts, activities and foods from cultures around the world, natural resources education and technology exploration with 4-H members and community children. (3) To provide opportunities for 4-H leaders and members to share their skills and knowledge with youth from their communities and to strengthen community partnerships. The "My World" summer daycamp program is the result of a huge cooperative effort of 4-H staff, 4-H members and leaders, school district and other youth serving agency staff and generous financial support from a number of supporters. "My World" was the 2002 NAE4-HA National Diversity Program Award recipient.

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ALIANZAS & OTHER COLLABORATIONS FOR CHANGE IN MISSOURI

Jinny Hopp* and Connie Mefford

ABSTRACT:
Since 1990 the Hispanic population of Missouri has increased by 92.2 percent. This seminar will report about collaborative efforts within the state to assist both new and existing residents as they adapt to the changes. Five efforts will be highlighted: (1) PROJECT ALIANZAS http://www.ueoalliances.com, which seeks to enhance the ability of communities to collaborate with the growing immigrant Hispanic populations through a Hispanic, university and community partnership, using a community-based, co-learner approach; (2) CAMBIO DE COLORES http://www.decolores.missouri.edu/ - the change of colors in Missouri - is a conference that focuses on Latino immigration to Missouri, showing the latest research and looking for action plans on demographics, culture and language, social services, health care, education, community development, and legal issues; (3) EDUSAT is a distance-learning program provided through the Extension System and the Mexican Consulate to help Mexican citizens in the United States complete their secundaria education making it possible to enter GED or high-school equivalency program; (4) OZARKS REGIONAL ALLIANCE (ALIANZAS) is a consortium of agencies, organizations, and individuals who meet monthly to network, share programs and resources to deal with changing cultures in the Ozarks; and (5) FESTIVAL OF FRIENDS is a locally organized event in Carthage Missouri. Jasper County Missouri has recently experienced an influx of Hispanic and Latino residents. This festival is one way to help residents learn about each other in a fun atmosphere.

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GREAT EXPECTATIONS FOR SERVING LATINO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN AFTER-SCHOOL SETTINGS USING WEB-BASED CURRICULA

Joseph H. Konen* and Scott D. Scheer

ABSTRACT:
Growing Latino populations in the United States and the great need for quality after-school programs for youths are two trends that challenge Extension resources. This presentation will offer insights to strengthen after-school programming for Latino children. Three presenters will offer participants: (a) information about selecting and evaluating educational resources needed for successful after-school educational programming; (b) hands-on experience with Websites in Spanish that mix fun and educational objectives suitable for Latino youth in after school programs; and (c) an active introduction to the online Spanish version of the Cloverbud Series I, a nationally recognized curriculum for K-2 youth. Participants will learn how to assist after-school programs find appropriate educational resources for Latino youth. These materials can help children learn-to-learn and to get a good start in the educational system. Participants will also become familiar by exploring Websites that will help their young clients learn, do homework, or have an "edutainment" experience. In addition, they will have time to experience the Spanish Version of Cloverbud Curriculum I on-line through the CYFERnet site. This 4-H Extension outreach curriculum/program has been developed to promote holistic development for both low and high-risk children. The program/curriculum is designed to help reach more Hispanic children and adult volunteers through translated curriculum, volunteer training material, and other related resources. Educators who participate in this session will be equipped to help strengthen the quality of the ever-expanding after-school programs.

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WILL PARENT/CHILD PARTICIPATION IN EMERGENT LITERACY PROGRAMS IMPROVE EMERGENT LITERACY IN THREE- TO FIVE-YEAR-OLDS?

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ABSTRACT:
The poster session will demonstrate how increasing reading interaction with children three to five years of age can effectively improve a child's success with literacy in school. The importance of understanding emergent literacy skills (early reading and writing) and how to support these skills as they help children develop their literacy abilities will be highlighted. A collaborative project among the WVU Extension Service, the WVU College of Human Resources and Education and Head Start illustrates the positive effect that increased parental literacy interaction with preschoolers can have on a child's learned literacy abilities. The project was designed to involve parents more actively in their child's schooling by having them provide activities at home that build on what the child learned in school. Head Start parents and their children participated in 10 activity filled weekly sessions emphasizing the importance of emergent literacy abilities. Children and parents completed weekly literacy assignments at home. One assignment involved the children drawing pictures in provided journals. Parents dated each journal entry. Parents also wrote in the journal about the child's story about the picture. Participants attending the poster session will be to view sample journal changes over the length of the study and discuss implications of the literacy development realized in the study.

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