

Gracie Trainum

Dr. Bidwell

SOCL 222

December 4, 2023

Project Reflection

Throughout the course of the semester, my group and I worked cohesively with one another to produce a fun and age-appropriate activity for children and parents of the Head Start programs in some of the surrounding counties of Farmville, Virginia. Each group member started by developing their own activity, including appropriate SMART objectives. We then brought all ideas together and each person presented their proposal to the group. After much discussion and thoughtful consideration, we decided on a haunted runway activity.

This project has provided me with such much knowledge I did not know prior to its completion. Program development is so much more than producing an activity and dispersing it among children. When considering a program, it is important to consider the audience and how the program will or will not benefit them. During the planning stage of our project, we aimed to identify the research gaps among the children and their parents so that we can form an activity with their best interest in consideration. Through specific research, we formed our SMART goals to measure effectiveness and achievement. Following implementation, we assessed our program with the help of students in the research methods class. I learned that assessment is pivotal because it helps determine the effectiveness of the curriculum. The research method class provided us with their findings gathered from the surveys they formed which in return allowed us to reflect and reevaluate our program. Time for reflection is important because we can consider our strong areas, but also areas in which we can improve for the future. Overall, I have

learned that all aspects of program development, implementation, and assessment, even if small, play a critical role in the efficacy of a program.

Not only did this project teach me a lot, but it provided me with the opportunity to associate the course material to our program. Over the past few months, we have taken a deeper look into child development, family science, different research methods and theories, parenting styles, and divorce. We took what we learned into consideration when making decisions about our program.

While I feel like the quality of our program design was strong, there is always room for improvement. Along with each family activity bag was a very detailed set of instructions we compiled for families. As college students, we assumed the more detail, the better, but many children obtain information better from images. Young children, especially in Head Start programs, may have a harder time reading, especially many words at once. We could have considered that aspect more efficiently and included directions with more of a visual appeal. Additionally, our SMART objectives were not fully met. Our program only received two responses so the data we have obtained are from those. We wanted the children to pick out at least three items to wear, and one of them only picked out two items. Upon completion of the fashion show, we wanted the children to demonstrate cleaning up the materials, but one of the responses stated that the child was not able to independently clean up without assistance. While these are areas for improvement, we were still provided with very positive feedback. Our family enjoyment score was a 10, which is very promising. As a group, we communicated effectively, worked well with one another, and obtained strong group dynamics.

Personally, I learned a lot about myself throughout this semester and developed many great skills along the way. Not only did I grasp a variety of skills, but they are skills that will

benefit throughout my lifetime, both personally and professionally. I learned effective communication skills, how to be adaptable, creativity, leadership, collaboration, decision making, and time management. These are just to name a few, but all will benefit me tremendously outside of college and in the workplace. I am a hard worker, great listener, and an effective communicator and I contributed those skills to this collaborative project. Aside from these skills, I designed and formulated our instruction sheet and helped the group put together each kit. If I could improve in an area, it would be my organizational skills. Instead of focusing on one task, sometimes I try to do too much at once. It is important that I put all my energy into one assignment so I can produce a better outcome and there will be a lower possibility for mistakes. I have been impacted by this project and greatly treasure the opportunity of implementing our activity in a Head Start program. While there may have been areas for improvement, it was very touching to create an activity that will impact a child and their family.