

PARTNERS FOR SUCCESS

2012-2014 PROGRAM EVALUATION RESULTS



Aisling Discoveries
Child and Family Centre

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PARTNERS FOR SUCCESS - 2012-2014 EVALUATION RESULTS

Aisling Discoveries Child and Family Centre has a long history of providing mental health consultation and support services to elementary schools in east Toronto. *Partners for Success* is a collaborative program where the Centre works with the Toronto District School Board and Toronto Catholic District School Board to offer mental health services that meet specific needs identified by local schools. Topics can be chosen from a “Menu of Services” which provides flexible options for schools willing to offer or augment existing mental health services. For each topic, program recipients may attend single or multiple sessions, each lasting approximately 45-90 minutes. The services offered fall into four main categories:

- 1. Parenting Groups**
- 2. Parent Workshops/Presentations**
- 3. Staff Training**
- 4. Class-wide Children’s Programs**

EVALUATION

For the *Partners for Success* evaluation, we gathered feedback from children, parents and staff who participated in the program. At the end of most groups/presentations/workshops, participants were asked to fill out a one-page survey. Younger children were not asked to complete a survey, but their teachers were asked to fill out a survey designed for observers.

New surveys: Following a recommendation from the last (Feb. 2011) evaluation of *Partners for Success* programs, new surveys were developed that better targeted participant outcomes/goal attainment. Over the course of a year, over 30 new surveys were created, each being tailored to the individual workshops/groups. Each participant survey now contains several unique questions related to the specific goals of each workshop, as well as questions common to all workshops. There are 7 common questions on all participant surveys, including 3 open-ended items. The observer (for teachers) survey was also updated, yet is the same for all programs. It now has a total of 8 items, 3 of which are open-ended.

The current report contains data from only those groups/presentations/workshops that used the new surveys, which were implemented in early 2012. This includes some longer-term groups that may have started as early as 2011 but only ended in 2012.

PARTICIPATION AND SURVEY COMPLETION RATES

From April 1, 2012 to June 31, 2014, the *Partners for Success* program delivered a total of 450 sessions across 156 workshops/ groups and covered over 20 different topic areas. These sessions were attended by a total of 4053 individuals, including 2549 children, 331 staff, and 1173 parents/ guardians. A breakdown of attendance and the survey response rate for each workshop is presented in Table 1 (next page).

Table 1: Attendance and Survey Return Rates

SESSION TOPIC	GROUPS	SESSIONS	STUDENTS	SCHOOL STAFF	PARENTS	TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# SURVEYS RETURNED	RETURN RATE
PARENTING GROUPS								
COMPASS program	3	7	0	2	85	87	45	52%
Triple P	20	30.5	5	21	389	415	288	69%
PARENT WORKSHOPS/PRESENTATIONS								
Building your Child's Self-Esteem	1	1	0	0	28	28	24	86%
Bully Proofing your Child	6	6	0	11	82	93	71	76%
Effective Discipline	8	9	0	3	145	148	93	63%
Helping Children Deal with Anger	2	2	10	0	37	47	18	38%
Kids Have Stress Too	4	5	0	2	40	42	10	24%
Kindergarten Here I Come! For Parents	4	4	90	3	211	304	0	0%
Parenting in Canada	1	1	0	0	18	18	16	89%
Sibling Rivalry	1	1	0	0	5	5	0	0%
Technology- Setting Limits and Routines	1	1	18	0	48	66	0	0%
STAFF TRAINING								
TDSB, Mental Health Forum	1	3	0	105	0	105	0	0%
CHILDREN'S CLASS-WIDE PROGRAMS								
Class wide Anti-Bullying: Be a Buddy, Not a Bully	52	96	1228	90	0	1318	112	8%
Class-wide Social Skills	32	144	761	57	0	818	117	14%
Conflict Resolution	1	5	5	1	0	6	1	17%
Friends for Life	1	10	27	2	0	29	0	0%
Girls Group	3	18	95	6	0	101	36	36%
Kids have Stress Too	4	4	119	8	0	127	0	0%
Peacekeepers	2	9	61	4	0	65	54	83%
Roots of Empathy	3	82	77	3	3	83	0	0%
Spinclusion	1	1	27	4	0	31	0	0%
Information Booth	1	1	0	3	50	53	N/A	N/A
Other (No title on form)	4	10	26	6	32	64	0	0%
TOTAL	156	450.5	2549	331	1173	4053	885	22%

Overall, 885 surveys were completed. Parents were the most likely group to have completed a survey, with 47% (565) of them completing a form. Children were the least likely, with only 9% (236) completing a survey. See Table 2.

Table 2: Survey Completion Rates

Completed by	Total served	# surveys completed	% completed
Children	2549	236	9%
Parents	1173	565	47%
Observers	331	84	25%
TOTAL	4053	885	22%

RESULTS

CHILD AND PARENT PARTICIPANT SURVEYS

Across over 20 topics, the vast majority of parents reported that they learned parenting principles to help manage their child’s behaviour, and learned to encourage their child’s cooperation, respect and good conduct. Parents also learned how to prevent their child from becoming a bully or victim, and how to help children develop strategies for dealing with their feelings and coping with life stresses.

Survey results indicate that child participants in the *Partners for Success* programs learned ways of helping someone being bullied and learned how to prevent bullying and keep the victim safe. Students also reported learning how to be a good friend as well as conflict resolution skills. In addition, a large number of older students successfully learned to help children deal with problems in the school yard.

There were four survey questions common to all child and parent participant surveys, regardless of topic. Findings from these survey questions indicate that both parent and child participants were very satisfied with the programs and they felt that the knowledge they gained would be helpful to them. Specifically, 95.6% of attendees reported that they “*acquired new knowledge/ skills from this presentation*” and 93.8% of the participants agreed that they “*will be able to apply/use the new knowledge/skills that were taught.*” Also, 94% of participants agreed that they “*would recommend this presentation to others.*” See Table 3.

Table 3: Survey results for all participants

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
I acquired new knowledge/skills from this presentation.	1.1%	0.7%	2.7%	48.8%	46.8%
I will be able to use/ apply the new knowledge/ skills that were taught.	1.2%	0.9%	4.1%	49.5%	44.3%
The presenter clearly explained the material.	1.3%	0.1%	2.9%	38.3%	57.3%
I would recommend this presentation to others.	1.3%	0.7%	4.0%	35.5%	58.5%

When parents were asked how the programs could be improved, the majority indicated that they were satisfied, but would have preferred receiving more of everything - more information, more practical tips, more real-life scenarios/examples, and have more time to learn (longer sessions).

Similarly, in terms of improvements suggested by students, most recommendations were related to adding more examples, more activities, or more time to discuss. Several suggested that the resources such as videos be updated.

STAFF OBSERVERS SURVEYS

Observer surveys were given to school staff members to obtain the teacher’s opinion of the programs offered to their classes. Teacher’s feedback of the sessions that their classes received were very positive. The vast majority of staff (97.6%) reported that the program material was

explained clearly and that they would recommend the course to others. Fewer staff (84.0%) agreed with *There was sufficient time allotted for this presentation/ program*. See Table 4.

Table 4: Survey results for teachers as observers

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
The presenter clearly explained the material.	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	15.7%	81.9%
The program/curriculum was appropriate for this grade level.	2.4%	0.0%	1.2%	15.9%	80.5%
There was a good balance between activities and discussion.	2.5%	0.0%	5.0%	28.8%	63.8%
There was sufficient time allotted for this presentation/ program.	3.7%	8.6%	3.7%	24.7%	59.3%
I would recommend this presentation/ program to others.	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	13.3%	84.3%

For improvements suggested by teachers, the most frequent recommendation was to have longer or more frequent sessions. They also suggested having more hands-on/interactive activities for the students. In addition, some teachers would have preferred newer/more advanced content.