Children facing adversities such as homelessness, hunger, or poverty are at a greater risk for poor kindergarten readiness. This achievement gap may persist over time, setting children from low-income backgrounds on a trajectory of poor academic and social outcomes, such as higher drug use and mental health problems.

Given the importance of kindergarten readiness to children’s achievement trajectories, there is a need for high-quality, comprehensive kindergarten readiness programs that offer targeted learning to children before their kindergarten year.

Summer Success was developed with support from key community stakeholders to improve children’s language, literacy, math, and social-emotional competencies through authentic and integrated learning experiences.

With parents being the first and most important teacher in their children’s lives, a parent education night was included to give parents the tools and information to help their children succeed in school.

The camp is intended to bridge research and practice and operates through a collaboration among various community organizations and researchers committed to early childhood education.

The 2018 cohort included two 4-week sessions and served 56 children across two sites.

**Program Objectives**
1. Literacy: Identify and isolate sounds within words (how many phonemes, initial sounds)
2. Literacy: Identify upper and lower-case letters of the alphabet
3. Math: Count the numbers 1-20
4. Math: Count and identify the amount of objects in a total
5. Math: Sort and classify objects by some property and identify common and differing features
6. Math: Demonstrate understanding and use quantity/size comparisons such as more/less, same/different
7. Social-emotional: Demonstrate self regulation skills such as compliance with routines and transitions, following rules, waiting for turns
8. Social-emotional: Understand emotions and their expressions (predict how others might feel, use emotion language)

**Impact**
Children were assessed on language, literacy, math, and behavior regulation at program entry and exit. Significant improvement was seen across a majority of the domains with at least half of the children improving across all domains.

Successful partnerships were established with Columbus Metropolitan Library, Columbus Museum of Art, Franklin Park Conservatory, the Center of Science and Industry, and Columbus Trolley Company to provide the participants of the program with quality field trip experiences during the program. All children enrolled in the program completed the Summer Reading Challenge with Columbus Metropolitan Library and families were given information on the resources available through the public library.

Undergraduate students from The Ohio State University were able to gain hands on experience in early childhood classrooms, working with children from at-risk populations. Gaining experience in lesson planning, classroom design, managing challenging behaviors, and speaking with parents about their child.

**Partners**
Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved
- College of Education and Human Ecology
- Department of Human Development and Family Science
- Department of Teaching and Learning
- A. Sophie Rogers School for Early Learning
- Schoenbaum Family Center
- Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy

Community Partners
- City of Columbus
- PNC Bank
- Columbus Metropolitan Library
- Columbus City Schools
- Franklin Park Conservatory
- Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids
- Community Properties of Ohio
- Godman Guild
- The Columbus Foundation
- Columbus Trolley Company

**Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain/Measured</th>
<th>Program Objective</th>
<th>Overall Increase</th>
<th>Children who Maintained or Improved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>Phoneme Segmentation</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>22 (85%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>Initial Sounds</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
<td>26 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>Letter Name Knowledge</td>
<td>5.49%</td>
<td>22 (85%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Cardinality</td>
<td>-3.75%</td>
<td>15 (58%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Categorization</td>
<td>13.79%</td>
<td>20 (77%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Math Language</td>
<td>-1.52%</td>
<td>17 (68%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>Emotional</td>
<td>11.49%</td>
<td>22 (88%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>Self regulation</td>
<td>8.88%</td>
<td>14 (61%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy and</td>
<td>Initial sounds, letter identification, Classify objects, understanding and use of quantity/size comparatives</td>
<td>4.40%</td>
<td>12 (67%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How to get involved!**
- Support our community partners
- Provide funding to support program expansion
- Provide funding to support students and staff
- Partner with Summer Success to expand to other locations
- Volunteer expertise in the creative arts (music, drama, theater, dance, art)
- Implement the Summer Success curriculum at your site using our manual available on our website!

To get involved, contact:
Kari Welch
Program Manager
Welch.524@osu.edu
https://earlychildhood.ehe.osu.edu/community/programs/summer-success-program/

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