



Life Skills Program Enhancement for Children with Special Needs

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Project Description & Sites

Areas of Study: 1) Program and Policy Development and 2) Leadership

Population: Children with special needs

Site: Friendship Circle of Michigan

Program Description: My doctoral capstone was designed to enhance the programs at Friendship Circle of Michigan, an organization that provides services to children with special needs and their families. Specifically, the goal of this project was to enhance the curriculum of the programs by adding life skills lessons. Throughout my project, I worked on the Lessons for Life and summer camp programs.

Mission & Vision Statements

Mission Statement: To enhance programming at Friendship Circle to better serve individuals with special needs.

Vision Statement: To increase inclusivity and create a welcoming environment for individuals with special needs.



Needs Assessment | Literature Review

Needs Assessment: Prior to beginning my capstone experience, Friendship Circle expressed that they could benefit from someone enhancing the curriculum for their Lessons for Life and summer camp programs.

Literature Review: Life skills programs can be successful in teaching children with disabilities, as well as improving their social skills. Summer camp programs are a great place for children with disabilities to work on goals or problem behaviors. Additionally, summer camps can also help children with disabilities improve their social skills.

The literature supports that life skills and summer camp programs are beneficial for children with disabilities. Occupational therapists can implement life skills within these programs, as this falls within their scope of practice.

Project Completion and Outcomes

Outcome Measure 1: In order to develop an in-depth knowledge in program development, student will demonstrate ability to enhance a life skills program for individuals with special needs.

❖ **Related Learning Objectives:** Develop a life skills curriculum and create a survey manuscript

Outcome Measure 2: In order to develop an in-depth knowledge in program development and leadership, student demonstrate ability to enhance an experiential summer camp.

❖ **Related Learning Objectives:** Develop a summer camp curriculum, create an outline of activities for summer camp, and complete a leadership training course

Deliverables

1. Life Skills Curriculum with a minimum of 5 module lesson plans
2. Survey Manuscript
3. Summer Camp Curriculum Design Proposal with a minimum of 5 lesson plans
4. Activity-based Outline with at least 10 activities for children to engage in during summer camp
5. Certificate of Completion for a leadership training course



Future Implications for OT

Impact on OT: Both the life skills curriculum and the summer camp curriculum incorporated principles of occupational therapy and will be available to the site to utilize with future participants.

Impact on my career: My capstone project strengthened my desire to work with children throughout my future career. I had the opportunity to gain experience with this population, as well as complete multiple applicable trainings.

Student may be contacted by email at luddym@huntington.edu

Christ | Scholarship | Service

"So the Lord said to him, 'Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord?'" Exodus 4:11, NKJV

KEY REFERENCES*Full reference list available upon request

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