

Odyssey Junior Program Evaluation

2017-2018

Evaluation Design

Process • Impact

Qualitative Methods:

- Surveys of students
- Interviews of parents & instructors
- Document review

Quantitative Methods:

- Survey data
- Program data

Evaluation Questions

1. Who are the participants in Odyssey Junior?
2. What activities are included in the Odyssey Junior program?
3. How has Odyssey Junior increased student affinity for literacy?
4. How many students were connected with an additional enrichment or education opportunity through Odyssey Junior?
5. How has Odyssey Junior increased family discussions about education?
6. How has participation in Odyssey Junior fostered a sense of belonging in a multicultural community?
7. How does participation in Odyssey Junior help students develop relationships with instructors and peers?
8. How does participation in Odyssey Junior help students develop a sense of self-efficacy? Self-confidence?
9. How does participation in Odyssey Junior help students expand their view of future opportunities?
10. How does participation in Odyssey Junior increase students' awareness of social justice issues? Civic participation?

Findings

1. Similar to the 2016-17 evaluation findings, all three of the Odyssey Junior programs create a safe community for students to take risks and express themselves, which allow them to embrace opportunities related to developing their self-confidence, self-efficacy, and self-expression.
2. Students in the Explorers and the Adventurers reported an increase in the amount they liked to read and write after the Odyssey Junior program. Instructors in the Jumpstart program reported students in that program appeared to enjoy reading more after the program as well.
3. Since the 2016-17 evaluation, Odyssey staff worked to develop program goals and objectives for each of the three programs. When asked, most instructors did not have knowledge of the program goals and objectives. In addition, when weekly activities were developed, instructors did so on their own without reference to the identified program goals and objectives.
4. Related to Key Finding #3, Program Goal 3, "Participating children strengthen their sense of self-efficacy," has objectives that were rarely realized in weekly activities, such as, social justice, civic participation, and problem solving techniques.

Recommendations

1. Continue to emphasize the importance of community building by identifying strategies that develop and reinforce community in Jumpstart, Explorers, and Adventurers. Also identify ways to create community across programs and with the Odyssey adult program.
2. Continue to provide exposure to new types of writing and different types of reading materials. Align guest speakers, field trips, and activities to the program goal.
3. Continue to refine program goals and objectives to identify the key aspects of the Odyssey Junior program and how they represent themselves in the three different programs. Further communicate program goals and objectives with instructors from all three programs so that they may develop weekly activities that align to goals.
4. Constraining objectives under each program goal to key aspects of the program will help reinforce the overall program goals and when shared with instructors, will allow for easier alignment of program activities.