Promises and Paradoxes in Understanding Impacts of Out of School Programs for Youth

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Areas

- Out of School Time
- Early Childhood
- Social & Emotional Learning
- Literacy
- Parent education

Outcomes

- Achievement Gap
- Readiness

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Areas

- Out of School Time
- Early Childhood
- Social & Emotional Learning
- Literacy
- Parent education

Supports

- Professional development & teacher training
- Leadership training
- Capacity building
- Strategic partnerships

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## CORE

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Community Psychology

- Understand individuals in context
- Enhance the well-being of individuals and communities through collaborative research and action
- Prove and improve
- Social science and community activism

Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA) – Division 27 of the American Psychological Association
Impact

• Casual & Causal

• Jingle & Jangle

• Source & Audience
Impact – So What?

**False Positive**

- Think that things work when they really don’t

**False Negative**

- Think that things don’t work when they really do
Impact

Did it work?

How do you know it worked?
Or didn’t?
For whom?
Why?
How?
Under what circumstances?

Sustain and Scale

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Adults and Organizations

Evidence based practices
Adults and Organizations

Evidence based practices are necessary but not sufficient for achieving outcomes.

Programs aren’t effective, only well-implemented programs are effective.

Wandersman

Durlak
Factors that support implementation

See: Table 26.1 Examples of Factors That Influence Quality of Implementation
Adults and Organizations

*Dallas Afterschool*

- Does coaching & training increase OST quality?
- Does OST quality increase outcomes for youth?
Adults and Organizations

Dallas Afterschool

Does coaching & training increase OST quality?

- What elements of AQuA changed within one year?

Does OST quality increase outcomes for youth?
Adults and Organizations

Dallas Afterschool

Does coaching & training increase OST quality?

- Not all aspects of quality change at the same rate (Programs & Activities)
- Depends on where they started

Does OST quality increase outcomes for youth?
Organizational Readiness

\[ R = MC^2 \]

Organizational readiness = motivation x general capacities x innovation specific capacities

Methods Matter
Low to High Inference
Methods Matter

Dallas Afterschool

- Does coaching & training increase OST quality?
- Does OST quality increase outcomes for youth?
- Does the AQuA score for the OST site a student attends predict gains in achievement over one year?
Methods Matter

Dallas Afterschool

Does coaching & training increase OST quality?

Does OST quality increase outcomes for youth?

- Early elementary reading
- Link to day & afterschool
- DAS math > non DAS
Its amazing how far you can get when you don’t care who gets the credit.