Cultivating Creativity and Design Thinking With Young Children

Bridge Conference 2019
Introductions

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Objectives

Engage in various hands-on strategies that cultivate creativity in a learning environment.

Explore resources and methods that support design thinking within program development.

Reflect on the impact of emotional connections and creative development for youth.
Emotion Bricks

Select a brick color that best represents how you’re feeling today

Find someone with the same color brick at a different table and share with each other how you’re feeling and why.
THREE PRONG APPROACH TO CULTIVATING CREATIVITY AND DESIGN THINKING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Enhanced Programs
Challenge Based
Homegrown

“Create conditions for students’ creativity, imagination and voice to thrive”
Enhanced Programs at LA’s BEST are programs provided to sites by any of our programmatic departments in our central office and usually include specific activities that are developed internally and/or externally.
What We’ve Learned So Far...

- 53.6% of students reported that their ideas were usually different from those of other students.
- 63.8% of students reported not giving up easily even when the problem was tough.
- There was an increase in students’ confidence in their own creativity.

“You could do this with any group. Seeing the excitement in their faces; hearing them say, ‘Oh, I made this!’...This is what it does, with their Inventors...badge with their names - it makes them feel important.”
- Program Worker
Enhanced Program Tips

- EASY TO MODIFY AND BUILD UPON
- INCORPORATES A DESIGN THINKING PROCESS
- ALLOWS FOR STUDENTS TO EXERCISE THEIR VOICE AND CHOICE
- PROVIDES A CLEAR PROCESS AND CULMINATION

“Create conditions for students’ creativity, imagination and voice to thrive”
Prompt: Envision those cities that captivate your attention and spark your imagination. You’ve seen pictures and told yourself, “I want to live there!” Now is your chance to design and build what you consider the perfect city!

We provided students with a Design Thinking Process to support their development.

We provided students with their materials: SOHO Impact bricks.

And for summer we created a process to showcase their creations through competition.
As a group take the next 10 minutes to review the *Our Perfect City* Flyer.

What would go in your perfect city?

What would make it a community?

Create a blueprint on chart paper.
Homegrown programming happens when student and staff creativity and interest manifest into engaging experiences—activities, clubs, themes, etc.

*Homegrown originates at the site*
Provided the materials/topic (SOHO Bricks)

Introduced easy to follow guidelines

Provided multiple resources that walks staff and students through a Design Thinking Process

Encouraged staff and students to choose their interest, topic and/or theme
Use the Homegrown Tip Sheet and come up with a club based on your interest or your student’s interest

Think of a name

Then think of a culminating activity
Final Reflection

CHOOSE

Reflect on today’s session—what are 2 of your takeaways

Think of one activity/program/theme that would apply to any of the 3 approaches