FAMILY MATH: THE COFI WAY - A PEER TO PEER CASE STUDY

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• COFI was founded to give parents a voice in the decisions that impact their lives

• 24 year old non-profit

• Trained over 4,000 parents

• Shared our model with over 500 partners nationally
Leadership begins from within.
Start where parents are – literally and figuratively.
Parents make good community leaders.
Day-to-Day issues are rooted in systems.
Use positive visioning.
Make peer-to-peer connections and build support.
Build teams of parents to establish collective leadership, action and power.
Collaboration and partnership are keys to change.
3 PHASE TRAINING

Phase 1
Self, Family, & Team
Creating supportive parent teams, setting goals and establishing plans.

Phase 2
Community Outreach & Action
Creating community-based agendas that start with common concerns raised by parents.

Phase 3
Policy & System Change
Uniting parents across race and community to impact policy and systems change around issues of importance to families.
ICEBREAKER
ONE ON ONE/UNO A UNO

What’s going to happen? /Qué van a hacer?

- Find someone you don’t know / Encuentren a alguien que no conocen

  - One person talks for 2 minutes / Una persona habla por 2 minutos

  - The other person practices Active Listening / La otra persona practica escuchando Active Listening

  - Then switch / Después cambien de lugar
ONE ON ONE/UNO A UNO

- What are you going to say? / De que van a hablar?
- Name / Nombre

- Something about your family / Algo sobre su familia

- What are your favorite nursery rhymes from when you were a child or now with your own children? Are there any math concepts in your nursery rhyme? / Cual es su cancion o rima infantil favorita o que ahora usa con sus hijos? Incluyen conceptos matematicos dentro de esas canciones o rimas infantiles?
MIGHTY MATH COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Over the past 2 years, we have carried a total of 8 Mighty Math Events, in partnership with Illinois Voices for Children, an advocacy partner. One event in each one of our regional Chicago POWER-PAC IL branches.
MIGHTY MATH EVENTS INCLUDE:

• A short presentation on early brain development and the importance of practicing and feeling comfortable with math within the first 5 years of a child’s life.

• Conversations that remind us that math is all around us and that for parents, chances are we are already using math with our children.

• Giveaways of age appropriate toys, and materials outlining other ways to continue practicing math in everyday life.

• A play session between parents and children to try out their new toys.
For the past 2 summers, our Head Start Ambassadors, parents who carry out parent to parent outreach to connect families to preschool and other early childhood programs for a stipend, brought the mighty math message to families!

A total of 1,000 kits were passed out each summer!
MIGHTY MATH OUTREACH SHARED:

• Mighty Math Messages:
  • “Math is all around us!” (and we are already doing it)
  • “Children who feel comfortable with math have better academic success than those who do not!”

• Math kits including toys and books

• Handouts with information on early childhood math
• The peer to peer model helps to get parents engaged
• Easy, direct and relevant messaging works best
• Hands on activities help make parents more comfortable with Mighty Math
• Partnerships between professionals and parents combine two kinds of expertise. We should acknowledge that families come to the conversation with valuable knowledge.
• Meeting families where they are (literally & figuratively) increases the chances of success
• Evaluating the impact of Mighty Math is difficult
• Carrying the kits can get burdensome
FAMILY MATH ROADMAP – NATIONAL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL