



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

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# WHO WE ARE





- **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**



# PRINCIPLES OF COFI



- 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? /Que 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/Despues 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



# MIGHTY MATH COMMUNITY EVENTS

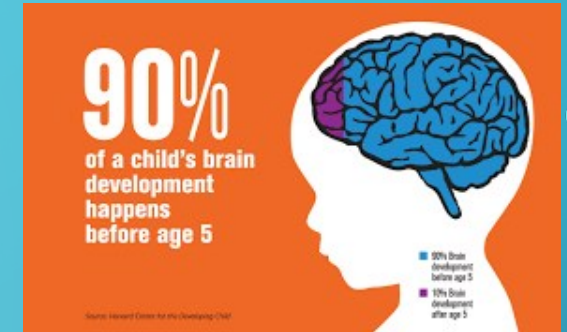


- Over the past 2 years, we have carried a total of 8 Mighty Math Events, in partnership with Illinois Voices for Children, an advocacy partner. One event in each one of our regional Chicago POWER-PAC IL branches.



# 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.





# HEAD START AMBASSADOR OUTREACH

- 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



# Q & A

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