Investigating the Impact of Head Start Family Interactions on Children's STEM Process Skills during Family Events at Two Science Centers AWARD #2005594

Pls: Michelle Kortenaar (Sciencenter), mkortenaar@sciencenter.org

Co-Pls: Erin Jant (Western Kentucky University), erin.jant@wku.edu

Karen Via (Maryland Science Center), kvia@mdsci.org

Community Partners: Carrie Jubran (Head Start/TCAction), carrie.jubran@tcaction.org

Project website: https://www.mdsci.org/

Project Description

This project has two goals:

- 1. Build on connections between two Science Centers and their local Head Start programs in rural and urban settings to support family engagement.
- 2. Study the impact of family programming on parent-child interactions and children's science-process skills.

Key Achievements

Family Nights reached 794 children and 601 parents at Science Centers in Baltimore, MD and Ithaca, NY.

Demonstrated links between family conversations and children's transfer of science-process skills during a classroom task.

Audience & Settings

Audience: Children/Families enrolled in Head Start; Science Centers

Disciplinary area: General STEM; Scienceprocess Skills; School Readiness; Parent-Child Interactions

Learning environment: Science Centers

Access and Inclusion

This project targets underrepresented familes enrolled in Head Start with children aged 3-6. Head Start parent advisors gave input that provided equity in design and program implementation.



Investigating the Impact of Head Start Family Interactions on Children's STEM Process Skills during Family Events at Two Science Centers AWARD #2005594

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under grant 2005594. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.













