

COMMUNITY PARTNER



To Our Children's Future With Health, Inc.(TOCFWH) is a community-based non-profit that serves the Overbrook and Nicetown-Tioga sections of Philadelphia by providing community health and education services. Their summer program operates from Kenderton Elementary School and provides rising first through seventh graders in the Philadelphia School District with summer camp experiences. These experiences include classroom activities as well as weekly field trips.

<https://tocfwh.org/>

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

TOCFWH was established in 1992 with the goal of empowering Philadelphia communities to live a healthy lifestyle. As part of this mission, TOCFWH provides a variety of services to the Overbrook and Nicetown-Tioga communities with the goal of improving community health status and health utilization. Services include youth development, workforce development training, and the summer camp experience. Preventative health services are a staple of all TOCFWH programming. All youth enrolled must maintain current health records including annual health assessments and dental records. Assistance is available to facilitate these assessments for families without a "medical home." Meals that are compliant with the nutritional guidelines of the PA Department of Education and the USDA are also provided to all participants.

TEAM'S EXPERIENCE

Student interns taught alongside fellow summer camp teachers to provide enrichment activities to elementary school-aged children. Areas of focus included: social-emotional learning, project-based learning, and academic enrichment. The project-based learning culminated in a student run summer carnival. The academic enrichment was shaped by the GSK Science in the Summer: Be a Physicist program sponsored by the Franklin Institute. As interns with a professional focus in health professions, an "oral health day" was run throughout the camp where students learned the importance of oral hygiene and were given oral health supplies. Also, the parents received a culturally-appropriate flyer with information and local resources to receive oral care for their families.

REFLECTION

Our summer at TOCFWH was a learning experience for both of us as much as it was for the youth campers. We grew as young professionals and Temple students by engaging with the Nicetown-Tioga section of North Philadelphia more directly than we have before. Through the social-emotional activities we led, we learned more about the barriers North Philadelphia community members face on a daily basis and can now more effectively engage with community members throughout our careers. The oral health activities we led allowed us to make a tangible impact as healthcare professionals and to grow our skill set in talking with community members about their health. Seeing the children interact with the GSK: Science in the Summer program was rewarding because it opened their eyes to exciting and new career opportunities and helped foster a love for science. Our experience was a very positive one. Being able to provide the children with a fun and engaging experience during summer camp that they will remember for years to come is invaluable.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ CHALLENGES/ JOYS

- The children enjoyed exploring different careers in physics through the GSK: Science in the Summer program such as accident investigator, materials scientist, sound engineer, laser scientist, and power plant engineer. Curriculum components such as skill-based learning, vocabulary development, critical thinking skills, and reflection and evaluation skills were promoted.
- Campers developed social and emotional learning skills through classroom-based projects that helped foster healthy development and relationships.
- The children learned about healthy oral habits during the interns' "oral health day." Knowledge of oral health was assessed through the correct responses given by children to questions throughout the presentation.
- Campers practiced creativity when creating an activity for their summer carnival through project-based learning. Some of the activities and crafts made were ring toss, hats, face paint, and dance presentation.



- The image above was during the "Be a Power Plant Engineer" activity where students learned about electrical conduction.



- The image above was during the "Be an Accident Investigator" activity where students test various crash scenes.