Joining Elders With Early Learners (JEWEL) Evaluation Study
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Joining Elders With Early Learners (JEWEL) Grant Components

This grant has the following three components:

The **Diamond** Component of the grant assessed whether an intergenerational program made a difference in children’s attitudes toward older adults.

The **Opal** Component of the grant included a satisfaction survey of all members of the intergenerational program.

The **Sapphire** Component of the grant evaluated small group intergenerational interactions to demonstrate the effectiveness of these groups.
The Diamond Component of the grant assessed whether an intergenerational program made a difference in children’s attitudes toward older adults.
Diamond Component Data Collection

- Children were interviewed to get their responses to pictures of older adults.

- Children were asked to describe these older adults on 11 attributes.

- For example, the child was asked if an older man was fun/not fun or kind/not kind.
Diamond Component Findings

• Preschoolers in the intergenerational programs tended to rated older adults more positively than those in a non-intergenerational program.

• Preschoolers in the intergenerational programs viewed older adults as healthy, not sick, compared with preschoolers in a non-intergenerational program. Findings were statistically significant.
Opal Component

The Opal Component of the grant included a satisfaction survey of all members of the intergenerational program.
Opal Procedures

• Data were collected from the following groups:
  – Children’s Caregivers
  – Older Children
  – Elders
  – Elders’ Caregivers
  – Staff

• Responses were collected from 158 individuals
Children like…

“Doing arts and crafts with them because we get to help them and they help us when we need help doing something.”

“I like seeing them in theater and they help with the plays "Lucky John" and "Sun and the Moon."

“I like being with them because I can see the past in a different way when they tell me.”

“I like talking to the seniors.”
Seniors like…

“They are good children, generous with hugs.”

“They make me feel young.”

“I love the children. The place is beautiful and the children are lovely.”

“Their smiles.”

“I love everything. Drawing and painting and everything.”
Parents like…

“The experience of one-on-one with an attentive adult, creating something together. Also, the affection shown.”

“He likes to dance and be active. He enjoys talking to them and getting to know them.”

“My daughter says that it makes up for her not having a grandma. (Hers passed away.) Hugging and making pictures with them.”

“Constantly talks about dancing/Grandmas and Grandpas. Appears to be in happier mood on those days--think because of attention received.”
Caregivers like…

“The sweetness and liveliness of their faces and personalities. The association with the children brings a fresh new look to the day.”

“My mother really enjoys dancing with them and helping them. She feels she has something to offer them.”

“When he has interacted with the children he seems more animated when he comes home.”

“My elder always loved children but she and her husband did not have children….Being with young children was always something she enjoyed and I am glad she can still experience the love and joy a child brings.”
Staff likes…

“Watching the children's eyes light up when they realize they get "Grandma/Grandpa" time. It's very uplifting to watch.”

“I love when the grandparents begin to talk about their children, grandchildren. I love their excitement when they see the babies.”

“The quality of interaction--there is always something wonderful that happens, even when it is challenging.”

“The interaction between the two is quite a sight. It brings a smile to my face. It's a great program."
Sapphire Component

The Sapphire Component of the grant evaluated small group intergenerational interactions to demonstrate the effectiveness of these groups.
Sapphire Component Approach

• The Fordham Ravazzin Center developed a small group interaction assessment tool to use for assessment.

• Children and older adults engaged in small group activities and were observed by staff using the assessment tool.
Findings

Relationships between children and older adults were rated as closer by staff after participation in small group activities. Findings were statistically significant.
Perceived Benefits

• Demonstrates the importance of sharing and compromising on ideas.

• Elders feel helpful and valuable in performing activities with the children.

• Children like expressing their creative sides.

• Staff saw elders talking about their life experiences (e.g., fighting in wars, special holidays) and children enjoying their stories.
Challenges Cited by Staff

• Some activities are more engaging than others.

• Importance of balancing performing the task and developing the relationship.

• Need to know more about different ways to build relationships.

• Need to know more about developmental issues of children and elders.
Conclusions

All three components of the evaluation show that intergenerational programs are important for strengthening relationships between elders and children and enhancing the participants’ (both young and old) experiences.
Special Recognition

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