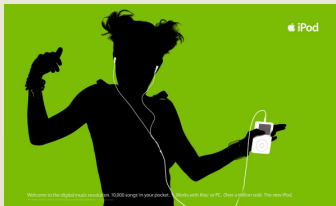


Technology in Out-of-School Time

January 2011

Featured Article:

Theme-Based Curriculum Gets a Workout with Program's iPod Project



Summary:

This article, written by Mike MacEwan, a participant in the Philadelphia Practitioner Fellowship, is about the innovative use of i-pods in OST programs. It was featured in School-Age Notes.

Where to find this article and similar ones:

The OSTRC Website - www.sp2.upenn.edu/ostrc

OSTRC Document Library

Look under these tabs:

“Activities, Content, & Curriculum”

then

“Science, Technology, Engineering and Math”

Article: Logged In: Using Technology to Engage Families in Children’s Education (2010)

Overview: How is technology being used to strengthen family engagement? Based on research of promising practices in school districts and communities, the Harvard Family Research Project has identified a range of technological innovations that have the potential to boost key dimensions of family engagement: positive parent–child interactions, home–school communication, and parent responsibility for a child’s learning. Here are some of their general findings about the role of technology:

- **Using technology, such as text messaging and online data systems, can enhance direct, home-school communication with busy parents.** Parents and teens are also using wireless technologies to support academic performance.
- **Technology-based assessment systems can provide timely information** that can help parents monitor their child’s school attendance and performance.
- **Technology provides access to a wide range of learning resources that parents can use with their children at home.**

Where to Find the Full Article: Go Harvard Family Research Project’s website: www.hfrp.org and type the article title in the search box at the top of the page.

Article: Harnessing Technology in Out-of-School Time Settings (2006)

Overview: This article provides an overview of the use of technology in OST programs, methods of evaluating technology in programs, its impact on youth development outcomes, and success and challenges of implementation. Here are a few of their findings:

- **Technology has the power to engage youth.**
- **Staffing for technology-focused programs is challenging.**
- **Technology-focused programs require infrastructure maintenance.**
- **Programs need to determine the balance among technology, enrichment, and academics.**

Harvard Family Research Project described how they conducted evaluations. They used a) observations of program sites b) interviews, focus groups, and surveys with youth, staff, and other stakeholders; and (c) reviews of program documents and data. These are the basic questions that they presented to OST programs:

- What were the most successful aspects of utilizing technology?
- What were the major challenges and barriers programs faced when implementing technology?
- How did youth experience their interactions with technology (e.g., which aspects did they find useful and engaging and which aspects less so)?

Where to Find the Full Article: Go Harvard Family Research Project’s website: www.hfrp.org and type the article title in the search box at the top of the page.