



2009-10 DREAM Children's Evaluation

FrElm St. – The Study

The study targeted both DREAM youth and parents. A DREAM survey was administered to youth in the Elm and Franklin St. housing communities in summer 2009. Surveys were divided by age, (4-7, 8-11, 12+) and some questions are unique to age groups. Completed surveys were received from a total of 26 youth (14 (54%) girls and 12 (46%) boys). Youth ranged in age from 6 to 16 years; 4 (15%) were aged 6-7, 9 (35%) were aged 8-11, and 13 (50%) aged 12-16. A survey was also administered to DREAM parents in Elm and Franklin St., and parents were asked to fill out one survey form for each of their children participating in DREAM. A total of 17 parent surveys were completed.

At the time surveys were administered, there were 50 children participating in the FrElm St. Local Program. Thus the survey sample of 26 youth represents 52% of all FrElm St. DREAM youth. All of the quotes listed below are taken from children participating in the FrElm St. program and their parents. The 17 completed parent surveys represented 34% of FrElm St. DREAM children.

Results – Summary

Broadened World View – When asked “if they go on trips with DREAM where they see and do new things,” 92% (24/26) of children responded “yes.” 69% (9/13) of DREAMers surveyed ages 12+ responded “sort of” or “yes” to “having new ideas about what type of work they want to do as adults since being in DREAM.”

Different people can come together and work as a team (14 year-old boy).

Boston has buses that turn into boats and the new people I met were nice (12 year-old girl).

Asked “whether DREAM introduced their child to new experiences,” 88% (15/17) of parents surveyed agreed that it did.

Expanded Social Horizons and Increased Social Capital – Of the total number of children surveyed, 69% (18/26) responded “yes” to the question, “Have you made new friends in DREAM?” 85% (22/26) responded “yes” to the question, “When you want to try new things, do people in DREAM help you?”

I've learned that I'm special and I don't just have to rely on myself – I can rely on my mentor to talk about my feelings (12 year-old girl).

I learned that there is a whole lot of people who are there for you when you're sad (16 year-old girl).

Asked “whether DREAM had introduced their child to people he or she could count on in the future,” 82% (14/17) of parents agreed that it had.

Increased Self-Reliance – Of the total children surveyed ages 8+, 91% (20/22), responded “yes” to the question “Are you confident in the skills you’ve learned in DREAM,” and 86% (19/22) responded “yes” to the question “Do you feel like you can make good choices for yourself and your life?” However, only 41% (9/22) of children surveyed felt “it was not hard for them to try something new at DREAM that they’ve never done before.”

Always believe in yourself, have confidence, stay positive; not negative (14 year-old girl).

I’ve learned that I am also an important person (13 year-old boy).

Expanded Comfort Zone and Increased Constructive Risk-Taking – Children ages 12 and older responded to questions regarding growth of their comfort zone, and increases in their constructive risk-taking. 77% (10/13) of children surveyed felt “if they wanted to do something that cost money, they would have ideas for ways to raise money to do it.” 69% (9/13) of children felt “if there was a problem in their life they could figure out a way to solve it.”

We can all come together no matter what culture we’re in; we’re all special (14 year-old girl).

It’s ok to be yourself (13 year-old girl).

94% (16/17) of parents agreed that “their child is comfortable taking risks in a safe environment like DREAM.”

Increased Aspirations and Expectations – When asked “What is one/two thing(s) you have NOT done with DREAM, but are excited to do with DREAM in the future,” responses included:

*Get ice cream
Camp DREAM(x2)
See my mentor’s
house(x2)
Beautification Day
Service Trip
Culminating*

*Learn how to drive the
DREAM bus
Go to Maine(x2)
Go to D.C.(x2)
High Adventure(x4)
CIT
Carwash
Go to the mall*

*Golfing(x2)
Fishing
New York
Canada
Teen Retreat
Trip to the ocean
Get nails done*

82% (14/17) of parents agreed with the statement, “Being in DREAM has helped my child think of new things to be when he/she grows up.”

Parents were asked “What is one thing you’d like your child to get out of DREAM next year?” Responses included:

*To be all she can be and to make life-long
friends and to have as much fun as
possible.*

*Learning to problem solve when conflicts
arise with her peers. Finding ways to get*

along with other children in the neighborhood and making sure everyone feels included.

She has a great bond w/ her mentor, maybe more opportunities to spend more 1:1 time w/a direction and a goal.

To know how important college is!!

Good attitude and good manners.

Possibly a little more mentoring on H. Work!

Asked to respond to the statement, “I think my child will go to college,” 82% (14/17) of parents agreed. 100% (17/17) agreed that their child “does things that are important to him/her.” 94% (16/17) agreed that their child “is hopeful about his/her future.”

Quality of Mentor-Mentee Match¹ – All 26 of children surveyed completed this portion of the survey. 73% (19/26) of children felt they “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with the statement: “My mentor makes our relationship a priority.” Of the children surveyed, 92% (24/26) responded “true” or “very true” when asked: “My mentor is happy when good things happen to me,” “I trust my mentor,” and “I feel comfortable with my mentor.”

Parents also positively assessed their relationships with mentors. 88% (15/17) agreed that “mentors listened to their ideas,” and 76% (13/17) agreed that “mentors are an important part of their family’s life.”

Favorite Things to do with DREAM:

Cookies

Going on the bus

Fundraisers(x2)

Going different places (x3)

Cookouts

Throw snowballs

Play on computer

Go to the beach(x3) BBQ

Be a CIT

Fun trips

Go sledding

Throwing parties

Boston(x2)

WAC

Painting

Camp DREAM (x3)

Mini Golf

Shelburne museum

Having fun with kids

Parades

Lake Monsters

High Adventure (x2)

Eating ice cream

Circus Smirkus

Hang out at mentor’s house

Hanging out with mentors

Swimming(x5)

Bowling

¹ Questions pertaining to the “quality of a mentor-mentee match” were taken from the following studies:

Allen, T. D., & Eby, L. T. (2009). Mentor commitment in formal mentoring relationships. *Journal of Vocational Behavior*, 72, 309 - 316.

Zand, D. H., Thomson, N., Cervantes, R., Espiritu, R., Klagholz, D., LaBlanc, L., & Taylor, A. (2009). The mentor-youth alliance: The role of mentoring relationships in promoting youth competence. *Journal of Adolescence*, 32, 1 - 17.

Asked to respond to the statement, “DREAM adds to my child’s happiness,” 94% (16/17) of parents agreed. 88% (15/17) of parents agreed with the statement, “My child looks forward to DREAM each week.”

If there was one thing I could change about DREAM, it would be:

More transportation (bus/van)
Nothing, DREAM roxks! (x7)
More stuff w/ just Franklin St.
Longer trips
DREAM Fridays last longer
On Fridays – Group trips instead of one on ones
More than Fridays (all of the days, I love the DREAM team!)
Do different stuff, like tie dyeing
Sleep in the treehouse every year
Separate teen/younger kid programming
No more fighting
Sing the song we sing during lunch at Camp
I don’t want to go to the haunted church
Dance parties

Some things FrElm St. children have learned about people and places in the world from being a part of DREAM:

People are really nice once you get to know them
People bring fun into DREAM
There are different kinds of people
We are all different but can work together to complete a goal
Everyone is the same
People are special
All people go through struggles and that people that own buildings are nice

Some things FrElm St. children have learned about themselves from being a part of DREAM:

I am an athlete
That I’m always shy, but DREAM has helped me change that
I learned I can trust people
I open up to more people

Feelings on Community: 88% (15/17) of parents agreed that “DREAM brings good changes to their neighborhood.” Only 41% (7/17) agreed that “their neighbors get along,” and 59% (10/17) agreed that “their children liked living in their neighborhood.”

Parents were asked, “What does DREAM mean to you?” Selected responses:

It helps children to go places, meet people, and learn new things.

A place my children can learn about others

DREAM to me means kids hanging out with someone who they can look up to, trust, and it is a way to see new things and to make new friends.

A chance for my daughter's dreams to be listened to, helped with and made possible for her to "Dream Big."

The program used to have more community involvement and the children did community service projects.

The world

Some things parents wanted their child's mentor to know:

*Keep up the good work that you do
Thank you for your support*

That we thank each and every one that puts their time and energy to spend with each child

[My child] would be lost w/out you and all the opportunities she has had and will have in the future.

**Further information about this study
can be obtained from:**

Elizabeth Haag
Associate Executive Director
The DREAM Program
PO Box 361
Winooski, VT 05404
(802) 338-8979
liz@dreamprogram.org