

Archived Information

Academy for Educational Development

SAY YES to Family Math and Science Program Evaluation

Goal Area of the Activity

The SAY YES program improved the quality of teaching and learning through teacher training, supported high-quality research in the form of AED's formative program evaluation and documentation, and increased public understanding through involving parents in students' mathematics and science learning.

Brief Summary

An after-school program for elementary school-aged students and their families, SAY YES was developed and implemented through a partnership between NACME, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, the National Urban Coalition, and teachers and families to respond to evidence that minorities and females face particular challenges and barriers to success in math and science; that learning must be made meaningful and relevant for children; and that the involvement of parents is a critical component of child growth and development. AED conducted a research-based formative evaluation of the SAY YES program during the 1993-94 and 1994-95 school years.

Purpose

The goal of the SAY YES program was to motivate young children and parents to explore and experience mathematics and science in a fun environment. The evaluation's goals were to document the program's implementation and delivery in three New York City school districts; to study indicators of program effectiveness; to document benefits of the program for participants and teachers; and to provide formative feedback about these findings to program operators.

Accomplishments/Results

A final report to Consolidated Edison Company of New York concluded that the benefits of SAY YES were substantial. According to testimony from students, parents, and teachers, SAY YES helped students improve their attitude toward math/science and school in general; improve grades and test scores; think about problem solving in different ways; and increase their motivation to learn. According to parents, SAY YES helped them to increase their own math/science skills, enabling them to help their children with homework, and spend more quality time and be more patient with them. And, according to teachers, SAY YES helped them by providing professional development in hands-on science and math instruction and by providing many activities and materials for regular classroom teaching.

Plans for the Next 12 Months

AED produced a final report documenting the benefits of the SAY YES program and plans to continue using the strategies in new projects it develops.