GiGi's Playhouse Program Development

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GiGi’s Playhouse Program Development

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Mission and Vision

Mission
To change the way the world views Down syndrome and to send a global message of acceptance for all

Vision
To see a world where individuals with Down syndrome are accepted and embraced in their families, schools and communities

Identified Needs

• Leadership of programming for individuals with Down syndrome
• Development of program curriculum for adult programming to promote life skills and independence
• Development of program curriculum for children focused on fitness
• Increased continuity of programming through written curriculum and suggestions for future semesters

Goals

• Lead a group at least twice a week for individuals with Down syndrome.
• Develop curriculum for continuity for future semesters of programming with specific strategies from an OT perspective.
• Understand the individuals’ needs and build rapport with the participants by assisting with programming.
• Send out a survey to caregivers and family members to learn more about the caregivers’ perspective and priorities for future programming.
• Conduct a focus group with adult participants to learn about the participants’ perspective to guide future curriculum development.

Outcome: Adult Program Development

• Led adult program focused on fitness, nutrition, communication, and money management
• Modified national GiGi’s Playhouse curriculum to match the needs of the participants
• Created curriculum for final weeks of adult program
• Created document detailing strategies used and suggestions for future semesters for future volunteers
• Communicated with parents/caregivers to keep them informed of program updates and expectations

Outcome: Child Program Development

• Modified GiGi’s Playhouse national curriculum for kids age fitness program
• Created document detailing strategies that did or did not work with the age group
• Provided ideas for fitness games for future volunteers

Outcome: Focus Group with Adults

• Conducted focus group with adult participants
• Topics included what participants did or did not enjoy and what they hoped to do in future programming.
• Participants reported that they enjoyed workouts and cooking. They also suggested doing a mock job interview and science experiments.

Outcome: Survey of Parents/Caregivers

• Sent survey to parents/caregivers of adult participants about the organizational setup of the program, what their students were and were not enjoying, and topics to be addressed in future semesters
• Parents reported they loved the opportunity for in person social interaction and suggested reinforcement of topics across programs. Parents suggested providing an overview of program expectations at the beginning of the semester.

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