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Spring 4-6-2022

Illuminate Academy Kindergarten Market Research and Shine Shop

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Rocha, Shauna, "Illuminate Academy Kindergarten Market Research and Shine Shop" (2022). *OTD Capstone Projects*. 100.

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Illuminate Academy Kindergarten Market Research and Shine Shop

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Expert Mentor: Kelly Eppler, MOTR/L
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sue Iliff, PhD, OTR/L



Mission and Vision

Illuminate Academy is a not for profit school alternative for children with autism and developmental delays.

Mission: To create an educational community that partners with families in achieving growth for all children.

Vision: To build meaningful relationships that increase engagement and foster regulation, within a safe and supported environment.

Capstone Project Outcomes



Samples of Shine Shop Marketing Materials

Capstone Project Goals

- Conduct market research of existing kindergarten programs for children with disabilities.
- Develop a spreadsheet and resource guide to compare and contrast various characteristics of Illuminate Academy to other existing kindergarten programs in Middle Tennessee.
- Create social media and marketing materials for the Shine Shop.
- Enhance professional communication skills to increase self-confidence in collaboration with others.
- Work on self-initiative behaviors to improve work ethic and independence.

Samples from Kindergarten Market Research Resource Guide

Neurotypical peers?	Sensory Supports?	Daily notes?	Days per week	Communication with families	Common diagnoses
No	Yes	No	5 days/week	Weekly newsletters, further communication as needed	Downs syndrome, ASD, tourette syndrome
Yes	Yes	No	5 days/week	Weekly newsletters, further communication as needed	Downs syndrome, ASD, ADHD
Yes	Yes	No	5 days/week	Quarterly conferences	High functioning ASD, ADHD, learning difficulties

Sample from Kindergarten Market Research Spreadsheet

Identified Agency Needs

- Establish a better understanding of kindergarten programs in Middle Tennessee through the conduction of market research.
- Determine priorities for families interested in inclusive kindergarten programs.
- Build a social media presence for the Shine Shop through the creation of posts and flyers.
- Support teachers in the Launch, Little Lights, and Shine On classrooms by assisting in the development and administrative components of classroom management to meet students' needs.

Acknowledgements

- Thank you so much to my expert mentor, Kelly Eppler, for her insight and knowledge with working with such a unique population!
- Thank you to my faculty mentor, Dr. Sue Iliff, for providing me with guidance and support throughout the capstone process.
- I would also like to thank the staff and students of Illuminate Academy for their continued encouragement.
- I am so thankful for this experience, and I will take the skills and knowledge gained from this into my career!

References Available Upon Request

Currey Ingram Academy
 What is their website? <https://www.currey Ingram.org/>
 Where are they located? 6544 Murray Lane Brentwood TN 37027
 What is their tuition cost to attend? Approximately \$45,000 - \$44,470 (for 2021-22 school year) / \$46,250 (for 2022-23 school year). Day tuition covers instruction, lunch and snacks, some school supplies, allied services, and the use of an iPad (K-4).
 What are their school hours? Currey Ingram is open 5 days a week. School hours for lower school are 7:45am - 3:15pm, except on Wednesdays (dismissal is at 2pm).
 Do they offer morning care or after care? Morning care is provided from 7:15am - 7:30am, Monday through Friday. There is no fee for morning care as it is included with tuition. Boost after care (offered part and full time) is provided from 3:15pm - 5:45pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday and from 2:00pm - 5:45pm on Wednesday. See table below for after care fees.

1 day per week	\$300 per semester
2 days per week	\$600 per semester
3 days per week	\$970 per semester
4 days per week	\$1,120 per semester
5 days per week	\$1,250 per semester

Do they have neurotypical peers? Depending on the school year, they may have a mix of neurotypical and learning differences; however, the majority of students exhibit learning differences.
 What are the common diagnoses that they serve? Common diagnoses include learning differences in reading/math/written expression, ADHD, ASD level 1, neurocognitive differences (speech processing, working memory), dyslexia, and dyscalculia.
 What is their average class size and student to teacher ratio? Their average class size for Kindergarten homeroom is 6-8 students and academic class is 2-4, with a student to teacher ratio of 4:1. There are support teachers for academic classes such as

language arts and math support. Academic supports are determined based on testing, and students are then paired with like learners to best support IEP goals and student needs.
 Do they offer sensory supports? If so, what? There is an OT library with sensory supports for teachers to use in the classroom. The staff work to understand a student's sensory profile and meet that profile through classroom structure (i.e., sensory tools, modifications, scheduling strategies). The focus is on serving all students and collaborating with teachers to ensure the right supports are in place.
 What does communication look like for them? There are four conferences throughout the year with three of those with the full team. With small class sizes, families can reach staff via email for day to day communication. If more intentional communication is needed, meetings can be set up. Teachers may also send home a note or talk to parents after school as needed.
 What are your specialists in terms of social emotional needs and emotional regulation? Currey Ingram places a strong intentional focus on social emotional learning. They follow the RULER Approach to Social and Emotional Learning developed at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. This evidence based model is utilized for all students to promote and support social emotional learning in and out of the classroom.
 What is the background and/or training of your staff? Approximately 70% of administrators and teachers have master's degrees or higher, and their teachers complete more than four times the state required professional development hours each year. They also have professional development days embedded throughout the school year and an intensive professional development training at the beginning of the year.
 Are there therapists/therapy services? Is it included in the program cost or is it an additional cost? There is a full time occupational therapist that provides integrative class and small group occupational therapy services within each homeroom and consultation to all faculty. The OT often leads handwriting curriculum and completes annual FM and GM testing. Speech language pathologists provide services directly or indirectly through consultation with teachers and parents. The SLP often leads language arts and works on pragmatics and articulation in smaller groups as needed. Rather than a 1:1 model, therapeutic concepts are embedded into the curriculum and generalized in other homeroom and academic areas. Therapists are faculty members and services are included in tuition.
 Does your school hold any accreditations and/or certifications? Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) and AdvanceEd/Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI)