



Captain Initiative

2017 SUMMARY

Summer 2017



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FAB YOUTH PHILLY piloted the Play Captain Initiative with 12 Play Captains on 2 Play Streets in the Kensington neighborhood of North Philadelphia and 3 Play Streets in the Mantua neighborhood of West Philadelphia.

Initiative overview

There are over 600 Play Streets in Philadelphia, which are part of the Free Summer Meal Program, overseen by Parks & Recreation and serve as a safe place for children to receive two free meals a day during the summer.

The Play Streets are closed off to cars between 10am-4pm.

A resident on the block applies to be a Play Street Supervisor and 70% of the block needs to sign on their approval for the Play Street.

Not all of the Play Streets as 'playful' as they could be.

Two lead partners: Impact Services, Drexel University/ Promise Neighborhood

Other partners: Innovative Solutions Collective; Free Library, McPherson Branch; People's Emergency Center, Mantua Haverford Community Center; Read by 4th; The Hub @ Career Link; Asian Arts Initiative

Play Captain Training = 20 hours

Total number of Play Captains = 12

Approximate number of hours on the play streets = 60 hours, NP & 48, WP

Saw on average 12 children, per day, per play street in both neighborhoods (e.g. 36 per day, W & 24 per day N)

Number of books distributed from Read by 4th = 400

Number of professional develop hours for Play Captains throughout the summer = approximately 12

For more than 50% of them (7), this was their first job.

Initiative elements

**20 hours of training prior
to placing the Play
Captains on the Play
Streets**

**Guest speakers including:
24th & 16th Police
Precincts, Fire
Department and 1
Healthy Lifestyle (first aid)**

Topics included:

- Introduction to Child Development
- Introduction to Leadership
- Lots of playing games, singing songs and learning how to make effectively facilitate them and make them easier or harder based on a young person's developmental needs
- Basic first aid (how to deal with nose bleeds, spot signs of dehydration and overheating)
- The Three Rs of Camp: Rituals, Routines and Relationships

Survey Highlights: About the Play Captains

Total respondents= 12

Total questions= 31

Average age of Play Captains = 18 (41.67%, or 5), followed by 16/15 (tied at 25%)

Nearly 60% were female (7 out of 12)

50% described themselves as Black or African American; 5 Play Captains identified as Latino/a and 1 identified as Asian.

Zip codes of the Play Captains: 19135, 19352, 19131, 19008, 19104, 19134, 19142

In September 6 Play Captains will be in 10th grade, 4 reported graduating from HS, 1 is enrolled in college and 1 is starting 9th grade.

Worth Noting

Trends to observe that could help to secure funding and to note for future evaluation.

More than 40 % said they participated in less than 30 min physical activity on average per day (when not a Play Captain)

Though during the summer, nearly 60% of them reported more than 60 min per day of physical activity.

Led daily math & literacy activities; helps to decrease “summer slide”

41% of them believe they can make a difference in their own neighborhood, as well as in someone else’s neighborhood.

Nearly 42% of them would like to be a Play Captain again and 42% would also recommend this job to a friend.

On average the Play Captains interacted with 12 young people per block, per day.