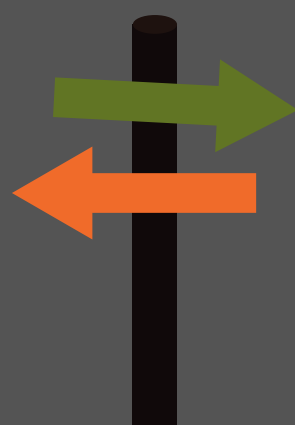


SIMILARITIES & DIFFERENCES IN SUMMER CAMPS

A MIXED METHODS STUDY OF LASTING OUTCOMES AND PROGRAM ELEMENTS



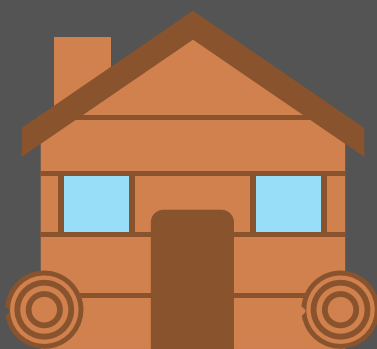
KEY TERMS

PROGRAM ELEMENTS - ASPECTS OF CAMP (PROGRAMMING, PEOPLE, SETTING, STRUCTURE) THAT CAN FACILITATE DEVELOPMENT

CAMP TYPES - CAMPS DIFFERING BY PROGRAM ELEMENTS (E.G. FAITH-BASED, ALL GIRLS, MEDICALLY-FOCUSED, LOW-INCOME, ETC.)

RESEARCH PROBLEM

Previous research has shown that summer camps are ideal for social-emotional learning. Yet, not all camps are alike and have the same goals for their campers. There has been little research about the similarities and differences of camp types and varying program elements



THE STUDY

744 former campers from four camp types (all girls, faith-based, low-income, and medical specialty) were asked what they learned from camp that they still view as important.

RESULTS--SIMILARITIES

This study found that camper outcomes were similar in providing independence, appreciating diversity, perseverance, being present, willingness to try new things, and self-identity across all camp types. The role of staff and other persons involved in the experience were also very important to all types of campers.



RESULTS--DIFFERENCES

Camp outcomes reflected the unique goals of each camp type:

- All girls campers reported they were able to build their self-esteem, teamwork/relationship skills, and independence.
- Faith-based campers reported empathy and compassion
- Low-income campers reported connecting to nature, independence, and self-confidence,
- Medical specialty campers reported belonging and normalcy.

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