Afterschool Quality Standards Project
Quarterly Newsletter
Truman Pierce Institute

TPI TIDBITS
for Providers of
School-Age Children

January - March 2024

Spotlight on the Standards

Afterschool Quality Standards

Standard 2: Staff and Youth Relationships

In these two articles, Matthew Bowerman shares strategies that administrators, program leaders, teachers, and staff can use to safely and effectively help a student in crisis de-escalate. The goal of these strategies is for the student to stay in the learning space or return to it as soon as possible to reinforce the message that *even though you struggle, you still belong*.

An Administrator's Strategy for Calming Disruptive Students so They Can Stay in Class
by Matthew J. Bowerman

Read the full article

How to Safely Manage a Student in Crisis
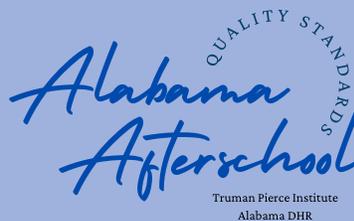by Matthew J. Bowerman

Read the full article

Social and Emotional Learning

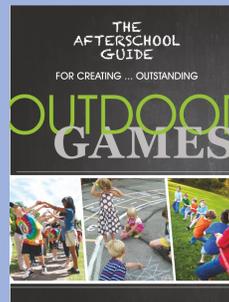**Engaging Families with Social and Emotional Learning Strategies**
an Edutopia video

When teachers bring parents in to see what their children are learning, they strengthen the home-school connection and help the adults build skills, too.

Watch the video here

Alabama Afterschool
QUALITY STANDARDS
Truman Pierce Institute
Alabama DHR

Health and Wellness

THE AFTERSCHOOL GUIDE
FOR CREATING … OUTSTANDING
OUTDOOR GAMES

The Afterschool Guide for Creating Outstanding Outdoor Games
from the National Afterschool Association

Check out this guide for helpful hints and a multitude of activity ideas for fun and safe outdoor games!

Game ideas and instructions are organized into the following categories:
- Water
- Tag
- Races, Relays, and Runs
- Balls
- Scavenger Hunts
- Nature
- Bikes
- General

Help promote a healthy lifestyle by keeping kids active!

Download the full guide

STEM ACTIVITIES

Hosting an Innovators Day to Boost Elementary STEM Learning
by Lisa Hockenberry

Lisa Hockenberry, a digital learning coach and former 2nd and 3rd grade teacher in Texas, shares her keys to success for hosting a dedicated day for students to explore STEM activities that foster 21st century learning and excitement across grade levels.

These ideas can be tweaked to work in afterschool programs over the course of a week or as an opportunity for family engagement in the form of a STEM Family Night event.

Read the full article

Staff Support

Afterschool Training Toolkit
from the National Center for Quality Afterschool

This toolkit offers FREE online training resources for afterschool staff and focuses on how to use promising practices to build students' academic skills through fun and engaging activities. Program leaders and site coordinators can download free pdf guides that can help them facilitate professional development for the four content areas of the toolkit: literacy, math, technology, and the arts.

Check out the toolkit here!

Grant Opportunities

Rural Technology Fund Education Grants

Working to empower future technology leaders and narrow the digital divide between rural and urban areas

- Average grants range from $500 to $2,500.
- Larger amounts considered for projects whose impact reaches large groups of students.
- Grant applications are reviewed and awarded every 30-60 days.

The Rural Technology Fund typically selects rural tech projects that:
- Help introduce and teach students about computer technology. This includes computer science, programming, robotics, engineering, and design.
- Teach students to solve real-world, human service, and community impacting problems using computer technology.
- Are conducted by schools in rural or high-poverty areas.
- Are designed to reach multiple students within a school, equitably.
- Help establish ongoing student interest groups like maker spaces and coding clubs.

Visit their website

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