



A Sensory-Inclusive Educational Curriculum for Early Education Teachers



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Description of DCE Site

- A nonprofit organizations in Los Angeles, CA that offers education and services for low-income children and families.
- Educational program and services: special education, mental health services, family support, OT, PT, SLP, and more.
- **DCE site:** Head start program (Hollywood and Vine St.)
- Early Education for children 3 months to 5 years of age

Summary of Needs Assessment

1. *Program Development*; implementing sensory-inclusive educational curriculum.
2. *Creating handout and resources* on common disorders, disabilities and sensory play activities.
3. *Teacher education and coaching* on sensory-inclusiveness.

Literature Review

- Sensory integration improves academic performance and helps the child respond to sensory inputs in an environmentally appropriate manner (Ouellet et al., 2017).
- Common management to address sensory difficulties:(1) classroom modification of sensory environment, (2) task modification, (3) using additional sensory inputs such as movement breaks to improve participation (Mills & Chapparo, 2017).
- Sensorimotor approaches improve behavior and learning capabilities to increase engagement in classroom (Ouellet et al, 2017).

Student Learning Objectives

1. Advanced clinical knowledge on sensory approaches, strategies, and support in the classroom of early education.
2. Develop and implement educational training for early ed teachers to increase level of awareness and knowledge.
3. Evaluate and synthesize findings from the outcome measures.

Program Description

Program Objectives:

1. Increase awareness and knowledge on disabilities, sensory regulation needs in the classroom.
2. Increase knowledge and skills on sensory approaches, strategies, and techniques.
3. Apply the knowledge and skills.

Implementation:

- *Targeted population:* teachers of children aged 1-5 years
- Learning Modules (20-25 min. pre-recorded educational videos, quizzes, activities, and handouts).

6-Week Schedule

Week 1: Occupational Therapy

Week 2: Classroom Environment

Week 3: Using All Senses to Learn 1

Week 4: Using All Senses to Learn 2

Week 5: Sensory Play

Week 6: Social-Emotional Learning



Scan the code to view detailed 6-Week Schedule!

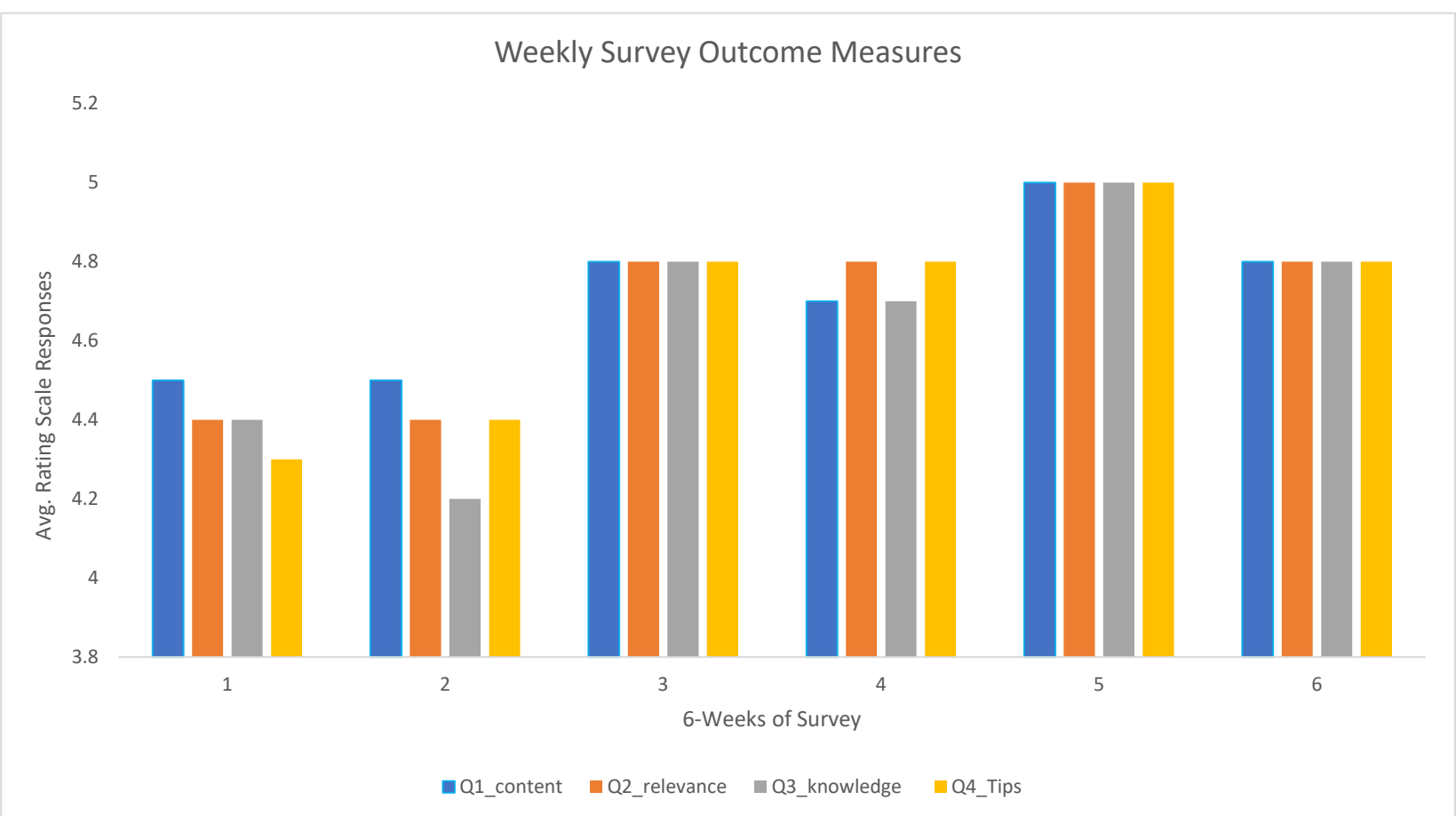
Evaluation Outcomes

Figure 1. Average Outcome Measure Responses



- 6 questions using a 5-point scale (not aware to very knowledgeable)
- Results show increase knowledge of sensory approaches, strategies, needs.

Figure 2. Average Summary of Weekly Responses



- 4 questions using 5-point scale (strongly disagree to strongly agree)
- Survey evaluated content's quality, relevance, applicability to learning experience.

Qualitative Findings

Education and Training

Sensory Strategies

Different Persepctive on Teaching

- "I gained so much information from the learning modules, I see the changes in the student's behavior and attitude when using certain sensory approaches."
- "I learned so much on sensory regulation needs that I have not know about. I look at students in a different perspective."
- "The suggested activities presented in the modules gave enough knowledge on how to implement these activities in the classroom with all the children in my classroom."

Scholarly Deliverables

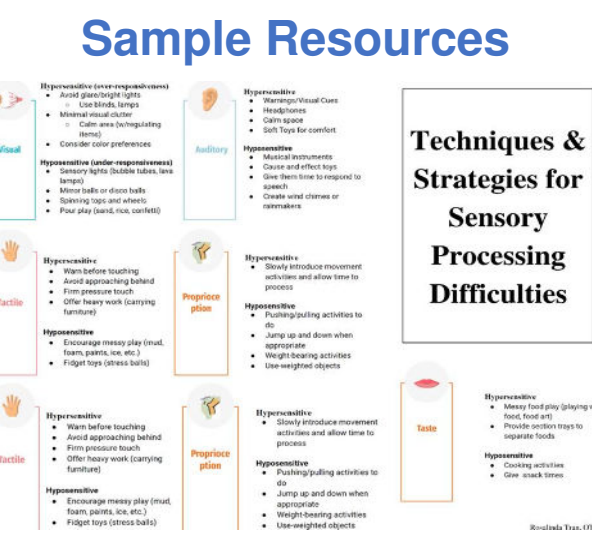
1. Pre-recorded educational videos
2. Powerpoints (PDF); optional: handouts on related topics
3. Resources



Scan the code to view videos!



Scan the code to view ppts!



Discussions/Limitations

- Teacher's level of awareness and knowledge increased after the program.
- Reported learning modules were useful and utilized.
- Expressed information and support provided them a different perspective on student and classroom management.
- Overall, positive impact on teacher's learning experience.

Limitations:

- Limited sample size; time constraint; decline in participants mid-program

References

Available upon request

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