Healthy People Learn Spotlight & QSA Tool

December 2018

Spotlight
Sally Crosiar of Healthy People Learn

We spoke to Sally Crosiar of Healthy People Learn about her work and the importance of afterschool, summer, and expanded learning. As a teen, Sally was a camp counselor and did nutrition and activity education as part of the Expanded Food And Nutrition Program (EFNEP) in an afterschool program. Those early experiences showed her that she wanted to work with and on behalf of children in settings where fun greased the learning process. Sally’s career in 4-H Youth Development provided great opportunities to foster just that kind of fun and hands-on learning outside of formal schooling. Sally also added that the professional development opportunities provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension (the parent organization for 4-H) were incredible!

After she left her 4-H position, Sally helped develop statewide training materials for afterschool programs and other non-formal education curricula. One of those projects was to help develop the NYS School-Age Care Credential, and she began teaching SAC Credential Prep Courses about twelve years ago. Sally stated, “it’s a rare privilege to help providers develop and sharpen their competencies so they can then influence hundreds of children.”

Sally says she has long been an advocate of the learning children gain from play. She believes the best out-of-school-time programs provide lots of opportunities for children to engage in play. And while they play, kids are learning social-emotional skills, experimenting with concepts they learned about in school, and exploring what they most want to learn. Sally also feels that kids get to do things in afterschool and summer that they would not get the chance to do in school or even with their families. They offer unique opportunities for kids, “and in the best-case scenarios where they are nurtured and challenged, they grow into independent thinkers who have learned how to learn.” They learn to meet their own needs in healthy ways and to respect and support others as they meet their needs in settings where they can make mistakes with a low risk of those mistakes having devastating consequences. These are the kids Sally hopes will become her physician, her lawyer, her accountant, her neighbors, and the people running our government! And meanwhile, Sally added, “their parents can be productive in their work, confident that their kids are safe and happy. High-quality out-of-school-time programming is a win-win-win proposition!”

When asked what her favorite part of her role as an educator of educators is, Sally answered, “when I get to act as Advisor or Endorser for a candidate pursuing his or her SAC Credential. I love coaching budding professionals - helping them solve problems, build skills, and most of all, positively influence the children and families they work with. To see Credential candidates in action, supporting, teaching, and challenging the next generation? Yeah. That’s why I do this work.”
**Resource**
New Webinars and QSA Translations in 10 Languages!

The Network for Youth Success recently hosted two webinars on using the Quality Self-Assessment (QSA) Tool. Both webinar recordings are now posted so you can view them at your own convenience! The first webinar, *An Introduction to the Quality Self-Assessment (QSA) Tool, Third Edition*, gives a full overview of the QSA Tool itself. The second webinar, *A Year with the Quality Self-Assessment (QSA) Tool, Third Edition, for Self-Assessment Leaders*, dives into the recommended process for using the QSA tool to create continuous program quality improvement. Check out both recordings [here](#) to learn more about the tool and how to use it in your program.

If you use the QSA tool with stakeholders in your program, such as staff, parents, and participants, you may find it useful to have copies of the tool in other languages. The Network for Youth Success is pleased to now offer the QSA tool surveys in 10 languages! You can find the tool in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu [on our website](#). Many thanks to the New York City Department of Education for their translation services!

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**Nominate an Outstanding Afterschool Educator!**

Each year, PASE honors five outstanding afterschool educators at the annual PASEsetter Awards Benefit. PASEsetter Award Winners are individuals whose commitment, energy, and creativity have had an indelible impact on the children and youth of New York City.

To nominate an individual for a 2019 PASEsetter Award, please [complete this online form](#) by Friday, December 14, 2018.

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**Who is a PASEsetter?**

- A staff person at a youth-serving agency in New York City whose primary work is directly with young people in afterschool, in the evenings, and/or during the summers.
- Nominees must be paid staff, not volunteers, working either full or part-time, and have worked a minimum of three years at their current agency.
- A staff person who attended an afterschool program growing up and who is now working in afterschool will be given special consideration by the selection committee.
- No nominations will be accepted from an agency that has had a PASEsetter Award winner within the last three years.
- Executive Directors are NOT eligible.

Learn more by downloading a full award description.

2018-19 National Geographic GeoChallenge: Tackling Plastic!
What Will You Do to Save the Planet? Take the #NatGeoChallenge!

Did you know that 500 million plastic straws are used every day? That eight million tons of plastic flow into the ocean every year? We need creative and actionable ideas from young people to literally save the planet. Afterschool programs are invited to take on the 2018-19 GeoChallenge—Tackling Plastic! Teams of students (grades 5-8) will investigate the urgent issue of plastic pollution in our waterways. If your team is ready, you can submit your solutions by January 15th to join the national competition and win cash prizes.

The GeoChallenge is free to register and download all of the activities you will need to help your kids engage, think, act, and impact! Students will gain skills in research and storytelling, collaboration, videography, innovative design, and mapmaking. Empower your students to change the world! Learn more in this video on how afterschool programs can participate.

Interested in advancing in the school-age field? Need the qualifications to become a Site Director?

EARN YOUR SCHOOL-AGE CREDENTIAL TODAY

Upcoming Events

12/4, 11, and 18: Gender, Sexuality, and the Family in Early Childhood Education (NYC)
We know that children are smart and observant. In the world of Disney princesses, Marvel superheroes, and ubiquitous advertising, how do we support children in exploring gender? How do we teach children the skills to stand up for themselves, to examine the world thoughtfully and critically, and to name and shape their own identities? To explore these questions and gain new resources, the New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute invites you to a series of workshops on “Gender, Sexuality, and the Family in Early Childhood Education.” The workshops can be attended as a series of three or individually. Follow this link to register.

12/5: Afterschool Webinar- Social Emotional Learning
Social and emotional learning (SEL) has gained popularity as a concept in recent years, and there remains confusion as well as great interest in the meaning and implementation of SEL in out-of-school time settings (OST). During Part I of this webinar series, the Afterschool Alliance is extremely excited to have Elizabeth Devaney from the Children's Institute at University of Rochester and Deborah Moroney from American Institutes for Research joining to talk about their new book, Social
and Emotional Learning in Out-of-School Time: Foundations and Futures. For more information and how to register, click here.

12/6: Systems for Supervisors Series: Maximizing Homework Help for Elementary School-Age Programs (NYC)
While afterschool programs provide a rich offering of services, homework help is still an integral part of many programs. Geared towards program directors or educational coordinators, this session will address effective structuring/systems; organizational messaging about approach to homework help; communication with schools, teachers and parents; appropriate staffing; and resources and activities that can be shared with staff to make the most of homework help components at their organizations. Follow this link to register.

12/11: Supervisors Series: Effective Administrative Systems for Supervisors (NYC)
This session will focus on rationale and strategies for establishing and enforcing policies and procedures that work for successful program operations. Participants will review communication strategies with stakeholders (staff, parents, youth, school, CBO, etc.) on these systems. Participants will explore how time management and delegation can also support successful program administrative systems. Follow this link to register.

1/8 – 4/23: Supporting Youth Development through STEM
Increase your skills using positive youth development practices to engage youth in meaningful STEM learning experiences. This ACRES series includes 3 modules: Developing STEM Identities and Making Career Connections, Giving Youth Voice and Choice, and Exploring Youth Understanding in STEM. The group will meet for a lesson and coaching session for each module at 10 AM - 12 PM on Tuesdays from January 8 to April 23, 2019. Use this link for specific dates and to register.

1/23: Advocacy Day, Albany, NY
The Network for Youth Success will be hosting our Annual Advocacy Day on January 23, 2019! Program providers, students, parents, and other supporters of afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs are encouraged to join us in Albany, NY to meet New York State Assemblymembers and Senators to advocate for New York’s children and families. Click here to register!

3/5-3/18: National AfterSchool Association Convention, New York, New York
Join our community for four days of networking, learning, and inspiration. For more information, follow this link.

3/12-3/14: Challenging Behavior in Preschool Children Train-the-Trainer, Hartford, CT
This train-the-trainer session is designed specifically for professionals working with teachers to better support preschool children with challenging behavior. During this professional development experience, trainers will participate in an intensive, interactive session delving more deeply into the understanding of, prevention of and planned responses to challenging behaviors in young children. It highlights the Devereux Center for Resilient Children DVD resource, Facing the Challenge, as well as the best-selling book by Barbara Kaiser and Judy Sklar-Rasminksy, Challenging Behavior in Young Children, 4th Edition. This session is a MUST for trainers who want to enhance their training sessions on the difficult and important topic of working with children with challenging behaviors. Click here to register. (Registration closes March 1st).

3/16: Terra Science and Engineering Fair
Whether you want to explore Cassini’s adventures around Saturn, test water quality in a local creek, or design an app to prep for your next exam, the Terra Northeast Regional Science & Engineering Fair (TNRSEF) enables you to ask questions and find answers! Students in grades 6-12 can come to SUNY Geneseo in March to celebrate all s/he has learned and perhaps even earn an award. More information can be found here.

5/10-5/11: Network for Youth Success Annual Conference, Saratoga Springs
Save the Date! Back by popular demand for one more year in Saratoga Springs! Click here for more information!
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Address postal inquiries to:
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