

Somali Youth and Family Club

Play and Learn

Date: March 25, 2011, 11:00-1:30

Location: Creston Point Apartment complex Game Room

Play and Learn and Lunch 11-12:15

The P&L time colors and there was a station set up for parents to help their children use crayons. Parents were encouraged to play on the floor with their little ones. The first hour was spent with P&L, a pause for lunch and parents went to another room for a café conversation about early childhood.

What questions were used at this Café?

- What do you want to learn in order for your child to have a better future?
- What is precious about your child's early years?
- What do you enjoy doing with your child and what do you think your child is learning during that activity.

What were the harvests from this café?

Language was a big topic of conversation: turn off the TV and don't leave them on their own too much. It is possible to be home and still be absent from your children. Talk to them a lot, read to them even if you don't know how to read you can look at the pictures and talk about the pictures. You can use videos sometimes with older children, another mother said our children understand our hear beat, our smell and our feelings even when they are in our womb another one said oh I did not know that; A mother is a school, she teaches many important things like language and how to behave with other people. Parents expressed that they teach their children a lot, how to share, care for all people, how to love, help them with the things they need, participate in their lives as much as you can. There is a high value about helping their children to learn; play time is precious

What did we learn?

Parents expressed value in the café and the time spent being able to stay with their babies and still talk with one another. Future cafés conversation topic suggestions included child development and behaviors, child health, helping their children adapt to an American culture and community, how to involve both parents in parenting; how to get help with raising multiple children (two mothers expressed difficulties in raising 4 children on their own.) One mother added that she would like to see these gatherings set the goals for children's school readiness.

Who do we want to share this harvest with?

CC community, Alliance, Family Friend and Neighbor, SF WA

How many participants?

Sample Forms for Hosts:
Sample Harvest Form

There 14 moms and 4 men who attended. The men helped provide support, (2 were community volunteers from outside the Crest Point Apartment complex) 4 other moms and 1 grandmother helped with the PL or the child care during the café

What Agencies or organizations were there?

African American Youth Association, Wells Fargo, Community Café Leadership Team Host; Crest Point Apartment management

How many children? 36 ages 5 and under including 7 infants