

SUMMER ACADEMICS PROGRAM IS A HIT

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Envision Children's Academic Summer Enrichment 2016 was the biggest and best in the organization's history.

The program theme was "Sports and Academics." The session served 120 children at three locations in Greater Cincinnati – Bond Hill, Winton Woods Intermediate School and Youthland Academy in Forest Park -- the largest number ever.

The program also received the American Camp Association accreditation in June – a prestigious designation awarded by Ohio Job & Family Services, based on program excellence, staff training, first aid training, emergency procedures and other qualifications.

"It's a tough accreditation to receive, based on the quality of our program, training, safety and other criteria," said Sheryl McClung McConney, Envision Children's founder and executive director. "We are thrilled to receive this accreditation, because it enables us to accept Title XX daycare vouchers, and serve even more children whose parents can't afford to pay for the summer pro-



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gram."

The 2016 Academic Summer Enrichment Program was also very successful in helping the students, who were in Preschool through the 5th grade, increase their math and reading skills. Based on the pre- and post-assessment test scores of the students who attended the entire summer in Winton Woods and Youthland Academy, Overall Average Percentage Increase of All Students was 74 percent in Math and 58 percent in

Reading.

New, hands-on and innovative programs thrilled and challenged students. Whether it was Bubble Science, Origami, LEGO or other Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), the 2016 summer program students loved the programs presented by "Engineered for Fun," the STEM educational enrichment company founded by Tresonne Peters.

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The Engineered for Fun sessions were two hours long, and involved hands-on activities and discussions of well-known scientists and engineers, such as Mae Jemison, the first African American astronaut. “We do various programs around the city, custom designing programs that fit the time allotted and particular school or summer camp,” said Ms. Peters, who also serves on Envision Children’s board.

A new program this year was Healthy By Choice’s “Beautiful Young Individuals Persevering” program, that provided an 8-part character building class over the course of the summer. Topics included: “Manners Matter,” “School Is Your Job!” and “Respect Yourself and Others.” Founded by Vanessa Slater and facilitated by Dr. Cheri Westmoreland, the mission of BYIP is to “inspire, encourage and empower youth to make healthy lifestyle choices.”

Looking ahead to Summer 2017, the theme will be on “Community Service.” “Whether it’s singing to seniors in a rehab facility or stuffing hygiene bags for the homeless, the youngest kids can learn to give back and



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help others in the community they live in,” Ms. McConney said.

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