

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

OSU Kid Corps



Mission

The mission of OSU Kid Corps is to help preschoolers develop the skills needed for school success and to enhance the development of citizenship and community service within young adults. We accomplish this mission by engaging university students in providing direct services to young children and their families, to childcare providers, and to service organizations that work with this population. OSU Kid Corps is supported by funding from AmeriCorps, The Ohio State University, and Fifth Third Bank.

Activities

Working with Preschool Children:

This work focuses on developing children's literacy and social skills along with supporting families' involvement in their children's educational experiences. We also provide families with materials and activities they can use at home to enhance their children's cognitive development and their physical health.

OSU Kid Corps members are organized into small teams that work with the preschool children in a one-to-two ratio, e.g., a classroom of 18 preschoolers would be organized into three groups of six with three OSU Kid Corps members assigned to each group. Each mentor team is responsible for activities and sessions based on the ideas and interests of the children in their group and content that supports literacy skills and healthy physical development (e.g., nutrition and physical activity). The group-to-group mentor model allows the development of close relationships between OSU Kid Corps members and the children. It also provides opportunities to enhance peer relationships and positive social skills in the children's group. By working with small groups of children, each team can focus on the children's interests and create long-term projects based on those interests. The program model also allows the preschool children to play a role in establishing their own behavior expectations and learning environment, developing their skills as citizens in their micro-community.

Partner Centers

- G-Tyree CDCFC Head Start
- Godman Guild CDCFC Head Start
- Poindexter CDCFC Head Start
- King CDCFC Head Start
- Capital Park CDCFC Head Start
- CELC at North Side
- CELC at West Side
- CELC at East Side
- Childhood League
- Homeless Families Foundation
- J. Ashburn Jr. Youth Center
- Dowd Center
- Gladden Community House
- Reach Out and Read at Nationwide Children's Hospital
- ACES After School Program
- Salvation Army
- Hamilton Alternative Elementary School
- The Academic Acceleration Academy



Inspiring Innovation in Learning and Living

ehe.osu.edu/kidcorps



I feel like I'm actually doing something useful.... I am improving the literacy skills of these children and I love it!

Althea Hischak

....It is that moment when you are no longer teaching the child, but they take control. A huge smile crosses their face and they begin to teach you..... It has been a privilege and a source of personal joy every time I get to share in this experience.

Robert Bennett

Working in OSU Kid Corps really put early childhood education into perspective for me. I realized how instrumental teachers are in the development of children and throughout their lives.

Charles Eng

Working with after school programs has enlightened me on what today's youth are exposed to..... I love the feeling of going to work every day and bettering lives I wouldn't have normally touched.

Treva Wynn

I feel I learned more from the kids than they learned from me.....

Heather Hodell

It is personally rewarding to spend time with children and create relationships with them and the centers. It is also rewarding to know that this program is helping to create more leaders for the future, with its members and with the children we impact.

Anna Bryant

Working with Adults Who Serve Children:

OSU Kid Corps members, many of whom are early childhood majors, undergo extensive training in research-supported pre-literacy and behavior support practices before they begin their direct service in our partner centers. They also receive ongoing training and coaching throughout the program year. Kid Corps members regularly hold "Make it, Take it" sessions with the parents of the preschoolers, providing them with low-cost literacy tools to use at home. Currently, 90 OSU undergraduates are Kid Corps members.

Working with Community Service Agencies:

In addition to their center-based activities, Kid Corps members each spend five hours a week working on community service activities serving vulnerable populations of children. Among our partnering community service agencies are the Homeless Families Foundation, the Childhood League Center, Hamilton Alternative Elementary School, J. Ashburn Jr. Youth Center, the Dowd Center, Gladden Community House, Reach Out and Read at Nationwide Children's Hospital, ACES After School program, The Academic Acceleration Academy, and the Salvation Army. Still others work on student-developed projects such as a book drive for low-income children and pre-school centers in the Columbus community. In 2006, OSU Kid Corps students collected almost 5,000 books to distribute to children and families in need.

Working with Columbus Public School Students:

The Kid Corps summer enrichment program allows the OSU student Corps members to work with Columbus City (CCS) high school students who are interested in pursuing a teaching career. Kid Corps members serve as mentors and team leaders to 12 high school students. Together the OSU and CCS students extend fun learning and reading experiences throughout the summer to entering kindergarteners and elementary school students in CCS. In the summer program, we focus specifically on enhancing children's reading and social skills through a variety of activities including games, drama, art and storytelling. The program is also designed to provide healthy living activities for children enrolled in the program. The young adult students involved in the program gain professional development experience as well as a better understanding in the importance of community involvement.

For More Information

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