



Harvard Family Research Project
Harvard Graduate School of Education

Out-of-School Time Resources from Harvard Family Research Project

HFRP conducts research and produces resources to promote the quality, accessibility, and sustainability of out-of-school time (OST) programs and activities across the nation.

This work is part of our mission to support *complementary learning* – a vision in which children and youth are surrounded by an array of non-school supports that are linked with each other and with schools to promote learning and development.

Our free OST resources support the work of practitioners, policymakers, and researchers, and are available at www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/about.html

These resources are designed to:

- Distill and disseminate research and evaluation methods and findings that matter to stakeholders.
- Provide new research findings that are directly applicable to policy and practice.
- Provide tools and resources for evaluation and professional development.
- Facilitate dialogue, collaboration, and networking.

- We maintain the only national database and bibliographies of OST evaluation studies. The database is a searchable compilation of user-friendly evaluation profiles designed to disseminate and promote evaluation. The bibliography arrays evaluations by program focus.
www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/evaldatabase.html.
- We produce short, accessible *OST Evaluation Snapshots*, which distill evaluation methods and findings. Recently released: Learning from Small-Scale Experimental Evaluations.
www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/resources/index.html#snapshot
- We publish in-depth examinations of important OST topics through our *Issues and Opportunities in Out-of-School Time Evaluation Briefs*. Read our latest on Summer Learning Programs.
www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/resources/index.html#issues
- We produce tools that help stakeholders conduct evaluation for learning and continuous improvement, including *Measurement Tools for Evaluating OST Programs*.
www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/resources/snapshot6
- We publish a quarterly periodical, *the Evaluation Exchange*, which covers innovative methods, approaches, and examples of evaluation. The fall 2006 issue focused on building and evaluating connections between OST programs and schools, families, communities, and other institutions.
www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/eval.html
- We conduct workshops, serve on advisory boards, and organize invitational meetings and conferences to strengthen connections between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. For example, The After School Evaluation Symposium convened over 100 diverse stakeholders to transform knowledge into action around program quality, professional development, and systems.
www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/conference/symposium2005/index.html

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Our upcoming projects include:

- An expansion of the OST Evaluation Database and Bibliography to include research studies that gather information about OST but are not evaluating specific programs – for example, studies from researchers at academic institutions and non-profit organizations.
- A new series of 2-4 page *Research Updates*, which will inform time-pressed practitioners and policymakers about lessons from the most current research and evaluation studies profiled in our Database.
- A new series of *Out-of-School Time Connections Issue Briefs*, which will examine how to create, maintain, and evaluate connections among and between OST programs and other institutions and stakeholders. Topics will include promising practices in OST-school connections, and building systems of support for OST.
- An upcoming *Evaluation Exchange* issue on critical topics in the OST field.
- Continuing to participate in and lead the national dialogue about OST, through conference presentations and technical assistance to the Statewide Afterschool Networks and other groups.
- A redesigned website for HFRP as a whole and for our OST work specifically, with a new look, improved navigation, and new resources. Stay tuned!

To be notified when new resources are available,
visit: www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/subscribe.html

To access our other OST resources,
including new findings from our study of OST participation patterns and a guide for engaging families in OST programs, visit: www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/pubs/publist.html#ost

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Help us to serve you better!

We have posted a brief survey about the OST Evaluation Database and Bibliography on our website. It is designed to help us understand how you use these resources and to hear about your ideas for improving them. We would like to hear from both current users and potential users. Access the anonymous survey here:
<http://poll.icommons.harvard.edu/poll/taker/pollTakerOpen.jsp?poll=1-4844-19645>



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Selected Resources from Harvard Family Research Project

Why, When, and How to Use Evaluation: Experts Speak Out. This brief offers expert commentary on the implications of When Schools Stay Open Late: The National Evaluation of the 21st-Century Community Learning Centers Program, First Year Findings for future evaluation and research.

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/content/projects/afterschool/resources/issuebrief5.pdf>

A Review of Out-of-School Time Program Quasi-Experimental and Experimental Evaluation Results. This *Snapshot* provides an overview of what the quasi-experimental and experimental evaluations in the database reveal about the impact of out-of-school time programs on an array of academic, prevention, and youth development outcomes. It also includes a resource list of other out-of-school time evaluation reviews and related evaluation information.

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/content/projects/afterschool/resources/snapshot1.pdf>

Performance Measures in Out-of-School Time Evaluation. This *Snapshot* outlines the academic, youth development, and prevention performance measures currently being used by out-of-school time programs to assess their progress, and the corresponding data sources for these measures.

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/content/projects/afterschool/resources/snapshot3.pdf>

Learning From Small-Scale Experimental Evaluations of After School Programs. This *Snapshot* reviews small-scale experimental evaluations of after school programs, highlighting these studies' evaluation strategies and results.

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/content/projects/afterschool/resources/snapshot8.pdf>

What Are Kids Getting Into These Days? Demographic Differences in Youth Out-of-School Time Participation. This research brief distills findings about demographic characteristics of youth participants from the first phase of the study on youth participation in out-of-school time programs and activities and includes implications for practitioners, policymakers, and researchers.

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/content/projects/afterschool/resources/demographic.pdf>

The Evaluation Exchange: Building and Evaluating Out-of-School Time Connections. This double issue of *The Evaluation Exchange* focuses on creating and evaluating connections between out-of-school time (OST) programs and the other settings in which children and youth live, learn, and play.

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/content/eval/issue33/fall2006.pdf>