



First Year Accomplishments

What a Difference a Year Makes

Since Reef House opened its doors in August 2004, our primary goal has been to help at-risk students improve their academic performance and social development. If our first year is any indication, we're on the right track!

In order to test the effectiveness of our after school program, a comprehensive performance assessment was given to each child upon enrollment in the program and again at the end of the academic year. Here are some of the exciting results:

- **During our first year, 90% of our students attended the after school program daily.**
- **100% raised their overall assessment score by ten points**
- **83% of the students increased at least one letter grade in language arts, reading and math.**
- **33% of the students increased at least two letter grades in targeted subject areas.**

Other Highlights:

Computer labs were held twice a week, in which a certified technology instructor taught students word processing, how to use the Internet for research, how to create PowerPoint presentations and the use of basic publishing software.

Our focus on health included nutrition and fitness awareness through a variety of stimulating and fun activities, including the creation of a successful Street Hockey Clinic, with jerseys, equipment and trophies provided by the Atlanta Thrashers Foundation.

This year also saw the creation of Reef House Girl Scout Troop #9566, which offers membership at no cost and covers program expenses. Reef House students also participated in National Youth Service Day, planting flowers at Blount Street Park in East Point.

Finally, our arts component included a wide variety of activities and learning opportunities including cooking classes, dance, drama, creative writing, music and art.

We learned a great deal this year and look forward to working even more closely with schools, parents and other community organizations to ensure that this year's Reef House participants' have even greater opportunities to improve and flourish.

About Reef House

Established in 2004, Reef House after-school program provides a licensed, developmentally appropriate environment designed to enhance the learning experiences of disadvantaged fourth, fifth, and sixth graders.

Structured program activities that revolve around six core areas expose youth to unique academic and cultural enrichment opportunities. Those areas are: education, counseling, technology, the arts, health and community awareness.

A total of 20 youth between the ages of nine and twelve attend the after-school program, which operates five days a week during the school year, and during the summer. Most of the students are academically or socially challenged and are referred by teachers and counselors at partnering schools.

Students attend the program until the end of their eighth grade year. After that, Reef House staffers act as case managers during their high school years to ensure academic and emotional stability, job readiness, and/or college entry. High school students are required to receive a minimum of six hours of tutoring support weekly at the facility and participate in scheduled enrichment activities.

Acquiring and maintaining support during these vital developmental years helps our students overcome academic shortcomings overlooked during initial primary education years.

New Programs!

Reef House students and their families are discovering some fun and exciting new additions to this year's curriculum. Here's a sampling:

Hip-Hop Dance

Interns from Atlanta Christian College instruct kids in the fine art of hip-hop dance.

The Reef House Poet's Society

West Georgia University English Professor Allison Umminger exposes Reef House kids and parents to various forms of poetry. The society was formed to teach kids about creative writing techniques and how poetry can be used as a form of self-expression.

Therapeutic Drama

Children are taught acting and role-playing as a tool to manage emotional topics such as drug-prevention and peer pressure. At the end of the semester, students will present a theatrical production based on the topics addressed during the school year.

4-H Club

The 4-H Youth Development program, sponsored by Fulton County, creates opportunities for youth to develop skills and acquire practical knowledge and wisdom through hands-on projects and activities.

Parenting Tip #5

"Words of Encouragement and Praise"

Children need to feel loved and appreciated. They thrive on positive attention. By selecting and using some of the words and phrases below on a daily basis with your child, you will find that he or she will start paying more attention to you and will try harder to please.

Yes	Excellent	Wow	Wonderful	That's right
Good work	Good job	Great going	Good idea	

What a clever idea

I'm proud of you.

I like the way you _____ .

I had fun _____ with you.

I like the way you _____ with out having to be asked (reminded).

I'm sure glad you are my son/daughter.

You can **SHOW** them how you feel as well as tell them.

Smile	Nod	Wink	Hug	High five
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Touch cheek Pat on shoulder, back, head, knee

With permission: Myers, Robert (Editor). Words of Encouragement and Praise, Child Development Institute [Online] Available: <http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com>

Club J.U.M.P.

Club J.U.M.P. (Just Us Making Peace) is an innovative program where participants tackle important issues such as peer pressure, anger management, conflict resolution, drug prevention and learn to develop life skills and a healthy self-image. Open to youth ages 10 to 13, J.U.M.P. incorporates anger management, conflict resolution, drug prevention while developing life skills and a healthy self-image..

Sessions are held by Smith College undergraduate – Aliyah Abdur-Rahman, Clark Atlanta University graduate student- JeShun Barksdale, University of Georgia graduate student Anna Galloway, counselor – Nina Deshpande, counselor, Davon Houston, and Clinical Social Worker – Dr. Elizabeth Henry.

Reef House Poet's Society

Nicolas Pate of Reef House Poet's Society used his mother's and father's names to create the following poem.

M-is for a miracle worker

A-is for an awesome women

R-is for a women that takes risks

Y-is for a young beautiful women

P-is for a unique personality

A-is for the many achievements she have made

T-is for a tough women that raise four lazy kids

E-is for a women with an enormous mouth

S-is for being a strong man

T-is for carrying to his job and back

E-is for encouraging us to do good in school

V-is for never being violent

I-is for being intelligent

E-is for a man that loves to eat

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