Girls
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Be inspired. Be inspiring.

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I CAN
make a difference

I WILL
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Welcome!

Please find a seat, drop your things, and share your thoughts on our interactive posters!

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Creating a Different Kind of Space for Girls in After School

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Founders, Girls Moving Forward
April 29th, 2011

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Agenda

3:45-3:50	Settling In
3:50-3:55	Welcome and Introductions
3:55-4:05	Icebreaker Activity
4:05-4:20	Journal Write and Pair Share
4:20-4:35	Creating Intentional Spaces for Girls in After School
4:35-4:45	Strength-Based Theory
4:45-5:00	Motivating Girls to Academic and Emotional Success
5:00-5:05	Q & A
5:05-5:15	Closing Activity

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Why do I feel like I'm attending an after-school program?

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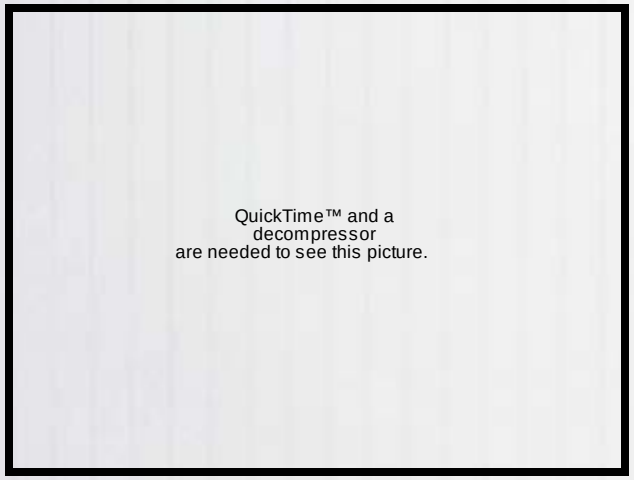
Discover Your Commonalities:
Break the Ice with Human Bingo!



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Journal Reflection

"I would have girls regard themselves not as adjectives, but as nouns..."
-Elizabeth Cady Stanton

How is this quote relevant for girls today? Do your girls think of themselves more as adjectives or nouns?

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Pair Share

Take 2 minutes to share your thoughts with a partner. What came up for you in your journaling?

It feels good to be heard.You can return the favor by listening to your partner.

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Creating Intentional Spaces for Girls in After School

Girls' programming, if not created intentionally, can sometimes play to stereotypes about what girls want to do, what they relate to, and what they need. This creates a missed opportunity to provide our girls with the support they deeply need.

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Creating Intentional Spaces for Girls in After School

While all girls need support in developing their self-esteem, girls in disparate communities have different needs.

DYAD:

What do your girls need academically and emotionally after they finish their day at school?

Consider how you get “under” your girls’ needs, instead of staying on

the surface.

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Creating Intentional Spaces for Girls in After School

After school programs present a unique opportunity to meet these needs by creatively blending academics and enrichment in a fun and engaging context.

Using a variety of learning formats (games, hands-on activities, projects) is a strength we can

bring to our teaching in after school.

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Strength-Based Theory

What if you assumed that every young woman was powerful, whether or not she looked powerful?

How would your behavior be different if you assumed that every young woman was brilliant, whether or not she appeared to be brilliant?

What if you assumed that every young woman wanted positive connections with peers and adults, even though her demeanor was hostile, competitive, or withdrawn?

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Motivating Girls to Academic and Emotional Success

Choosing the Right Curriculum

Look for activities that are culturally relevant, are connected to students' real life experiences, and allow for meaningful participation.

Seek out girls' and women's voices in literature.

Use math curriculum that has a creative, visual, and fun approach, and focus on developing students' math confidence.

Make homework club space a safe place for girls to ask questions, state needs, and say "I don't understand."

Create opportunities for all girls to shine!

Keep it positive! Make your program a body positive, no put-down, and no gossip space.

Take it there! Use activities as a jumping off point to address social and emotional topics.

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Motivating Girls to Academic and Emotional Success

Choosing (and Training!) the Right Staff

Select relatable staff who are culturally relevant and have had some similar life experiences.

In after school, you can balance education, experience, and personality when selecting staff.

Select a balance of personalities--some who have big and outgoing energies, and some who will connect with your more introverted girls.

Train staff to build relationships with each other, with their girls, and between their girls.

Train your staff to focus on the intention of every activity--don't just go through the motions, ask "why are we doing this?"

Provide an ongoing professional development series that offers a space for your staff to talk about what's coming up for them and for the girls in the program.

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Q & A

What questions do you have for us about best practices in girls' after school programs?

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Closing Activity

On each of your construction paper strips, write one thing you can do to create a positive and intentional space for girls in your after school program.

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Thank You!

We Have Deep Appreciation
for the Amazing
Impact You'll Have on Girls'
Lives This Year