



ALL ABOARD FOR KIDS

IMPACT

REPORT

2022

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OUR STORY SO FAR

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to promote growth in all areas of development for autistic youth through dynamic and engaging learning experiences. Our key areas of focus are social development, skill acquisition, and self-advocacy.

Our organization fosters broad greater central Iowa support for the children and families who are impacted by autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities.

99%

OF PARTICIPANTS REPORT
POSITIVE OUTCOMES
IN ONE OR MORE OF OUR
FOCUS AREAS

OUR PROGRAMS

Founded in 2016, All Aboard for Kids offers summer programs centered around science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics for students entering kindergarten through 5th grade and S.T.E.A.M Academy for students entering 6th grade through high school.

Since 2022, we also offer an Express classroom. This smaller class provides an individualized experience for students who benefit from more one-on-one support.

This summer All Aboard for Kids introduced Full STEAM Ahead, a new afternoon session focused on workplace readiness/adult readiness training for autistic teens. In partnership with other experienced leaders in the Autism community and local businesses, this program focused on functional life and pre-employment skills for teens who are quickly moving toward adulthood. Classroom work focusing on career exploration, self-advocacy, financial management, and social skills was included, as well as hands-on activities at area businesses.

OUR FOCUS AREAS



1

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Our first focus area is social development. We want our participants to make connections with their peers, and we want them to have fun doing it! In our survey, we asked participants questions about their friends and the staff members. Participants were asked about positive social interactions and their continued friendships with others.

2

SKILL ACQUISITION

Our second focus area is skill acquisition. Since we offer a variety of skill building activities in our program offerings, our survey helps us better understand exactly what skills are being developed. We ask our participants to tell us about the new things they learned, and we categorize the outcomes as curriculum content (S.T.E.A.M programming) , broader life skills, or both.

3

SELF-ADVOCACY

Our third focus area is self-advocacy. We asked our participants if they needed help with anything to promote signs of basic self-advocacy behaviors. Equally as important to us, we also asked each student if they actually received the help they needed from a staff member or peer.

4

WORKPLACE READINESS

Our fourth focus is on workplace readiness. We work with participants to strengthen 4 key areas: social skills, self-advocacy, teamwork, and resilience.

OUR 2022 SURVEYS

ALL ABOARD FOR KIDS, S.T.E.A.M ACADEMY, & EXPRESS CLASSROOM

To measure success in our focus areas, we use a combination of participant and staff surveys. Both surveys were designed to collect quantitative and qualitative data related to the area of focus.

Our participant surveys give our youth the chance to tell their stories firsthand by answering both yes/no and open-ended questions.

Our staff surveys ask the lead teacher of each program to share their thoughts on how they have seen the participants grow over the course of the week.



FOCUS AREA	QUESTION	OUTCOME*
Social Development	Do they remember their teachers name?	83.82%
	Did they make friends in class?	79.41%
	Did they have fun with someone?	97.06%
Skill Acquisition	Did they learn a new skill?	80.88%
	What type of skill did they learn?	LIFE SKILLS: 37.93% CURRICULUM CONTENT: 91.38%
Self-Advocacy	Did they need help with something?	55.88%
	Did they receive the help they needed?	100%

*overall results summarized from all 3 programs

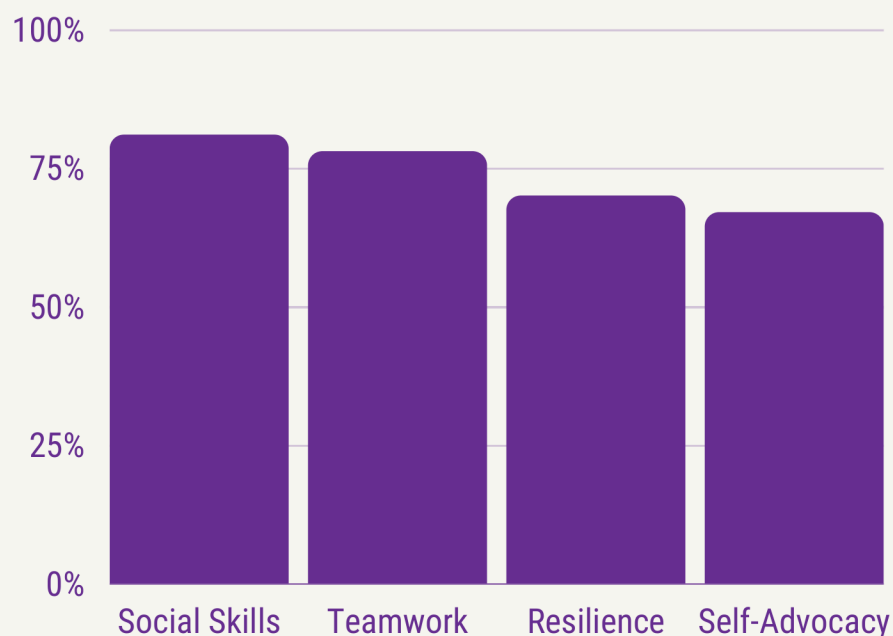
FULL STEAM AHEAD

As the participants who were with us in our first programs in 2016 begin to enter the next stage of their lives, we wanted to find new and meaningful ways to support them. So this year, All Aboard for Kids launched their first ever workplace readiness workshop. Designed for area youth ages 14 and older, Full STEAM Ahead is an afternoon program that aims to strengthen key skills needed in the workplace.

For the Full STEAM Ahead program, we also used a combination of participant and staff surveys. The program participants were given a survey that asked them to report which of the key skills (if any) they had strengthened. They also had the opportunity to write in any additional skills that were not listed in the survey. Our staff surveys for full STEAM follow the same format as they do for our other programs.

KEY SKILLS

Percentage of participants who reported strengthening the following skills



9

participants enrolled in 2022

96.3%

of participants reported learning a new skill needed for the workplace

11

unique skills reported

CONCLUSIONS



2022 was a great year for All Aboard for Kids, and our results show this!

The focus area of social development is one of our biggest successes. Over 83% of participants were able to recall their teacher's name, as compared to 67% in 2021. Remembering the names of staff and friends is a key component of social development.

The addition of the Express classroom altered some social development metrics. These dips may be concerning at first glance, but they show us that we are allocating our resources to right places and that we have room to grow with these participants.

Our results for skill acquisition continue to stay consistent overall, going up from 79% in 2021 to 80% in 2022.

We did see a large increase in curriculum-based skill acquisition. This year, 91% of participants gained a skill directly derived from our programming. This is up from 64% in 2021. Similarly, 96% of participants in our workplace readiness workshop also strengthened skills directly related to curriculum. This highlights the effectiveness of our thoughtful activities and program offerings.

For self-advocacy, 55% of participants reported needing help with something. While this number has gone down slightly from 64% in 2021, we are still seeing these behaviors in a majority of participants. The most important metric to us has been consistent for multiple years now - 100% of participants who needed help say they received it.

OUR 2022 SPONSORS

FAREWAY
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Jodi Lawman
Memorial Fund



United Way of Story County



THANK YOU

FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF

ALL ABOARD FOR KIDS

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Special Guests:

Dr. Nicole Randick, Art Therapist
Kathy Vince Yoga
Can Play
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Story County Conservation

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