

Impact on the academic achievement:

Hoops and Homework is always concentrating on improving the reading skills of our students. The kids' improved attitude and improved ability toward reading is attributable to our program's environment with less pressure, and more fun, than in the school. Parents add that their children are even more engaged in reading since our books are popular with the kids.



Letter from a former Hoops and Homework teacher (typical of our current staff)

During the time I was at Hoops, I watched the children grow with great pleasure in so many different ways from academically, mentally, physically, socially, & emotionally. Believe it or not, I spent about 265 days out of the year with these kids. They are a big part of my life, like a part of my family. Their well-being inside and outside of the program is always my main concern.



I was there to ensure the safety of the students, and also to listen to them discuss their problems. Many of these children have very challenging and difficult home lives, so I consider Hoops and Homework their Safe Haven. They weren't afraid to talk to me about anything. I never judged them. Their concerns range from not having food in the house, to not having clean clothes, to needing a winter jacket. Whatever they need I was there to give it to them by any way possible even if I had to take money out of my own pocket. Everyone needs to have one person they can talk to about anything, a person they can vent to, I was that person for so many of the kids. We desperately want the children to do well in school, but first they need to address their issues.



This is an example of academic improvement: a student in 4th grade was reading at a Kindergarten level. Every day he comes in and reads and he is very determined to read better and better. This year he has moved up to reading on a first grade level. This student always tells me if he didn't come to this program then he wouldn't be able to improve his reading because he doesn't have books at home. We do have tons of interesting books for all our kids.



Another student doesn't have access to a computer at home. So if he doesn't come to our program to use the computers to do his homework, it doesn't get done. Last year he was failing miserably, until he started going to Hoops. He was too embarrassed to tell anyone that he didn't have internet at home. It's sad that something such as a computer can be a factor in preventing a child from achieving success.

Enrichment impact

In addition to homework assistance and food and academic studies, we offer many enrichment activities that our kids would never experience except for our presence in their neighborhood.

Music instruction is one of them





Nature



Yoga and mindfulness





Arts and crafts





Chess instruction



Exercise



