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SGPS 9105A: UNITED WAY SUMMER CAMPING PROGRAMS

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United Way
Elgin Middlesex

UNITED WAY SUMMER CAMPING PROGRAMS

A Report

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to provide an evaluation of the summer camping programs delivered in partnership with United Way Elgin Middlesex.

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Executive Summary

The following report is an analysis of five summer camp programs in partnership with United Way Elgin Middlesex. The data collected has been provided by Sara Middleton for us, Tamara Hluchaniuk, Sarah Moroz, Mahshid Nasiri, Ebenezer Narh and Doan Nguyen to audit in accordance with SGPS 9105 “Collaborate for Community Impact” course at Western University. The summer camping programs are as follows:

- Boys and Girls Club of London (BGCL)
- Pearce Williams Summer Camp (PWSC)*
- SARI Therapeutic Riding (SARI)
- Stevenson Children’s Camp (SCC)**
- YMCA Western Ontario (YMCA)

The survey from which the data was gathered from was created to measure outcomes such as:

- Personal development
- Self-confidence
- Friendships
- Fun and enjoyment

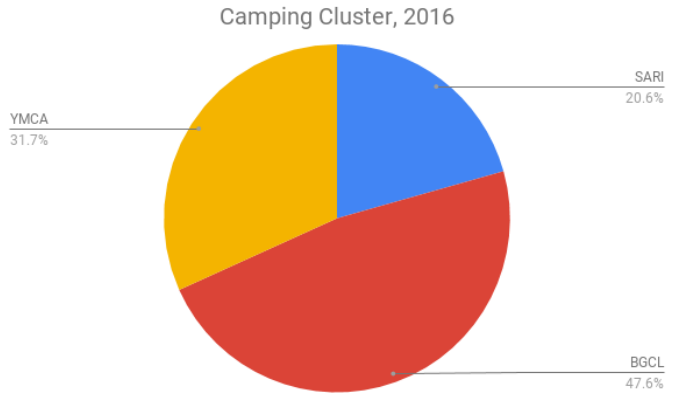
The first part of the report combines all the camping programs for quantitative analysis by year – 2016, 2017 and 2018. The second part of the report discusses the 10 prevalent themes found within the qualitative data from the surveys.

**only have qualitative data from 2018*

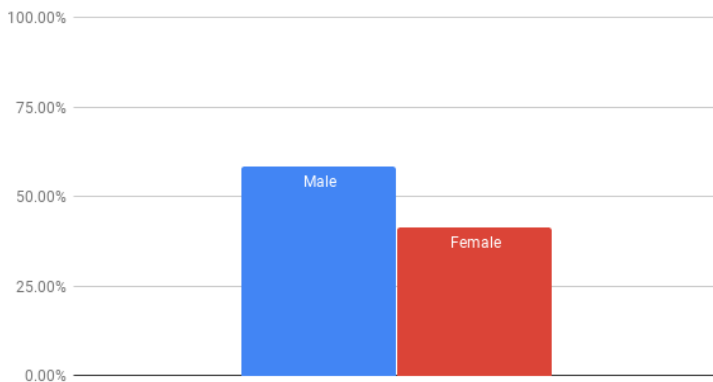
***no quantitative data from 2016 and no qualitative data from 2018*

2016

During the summer of 2016, there was a total of 63 campers. No quantitative data was recovered for the Stevenson Children’s Camp (SCC) for this year. Therefore, the following pie chart consists of data from the YMCA, SARI and BGCL.

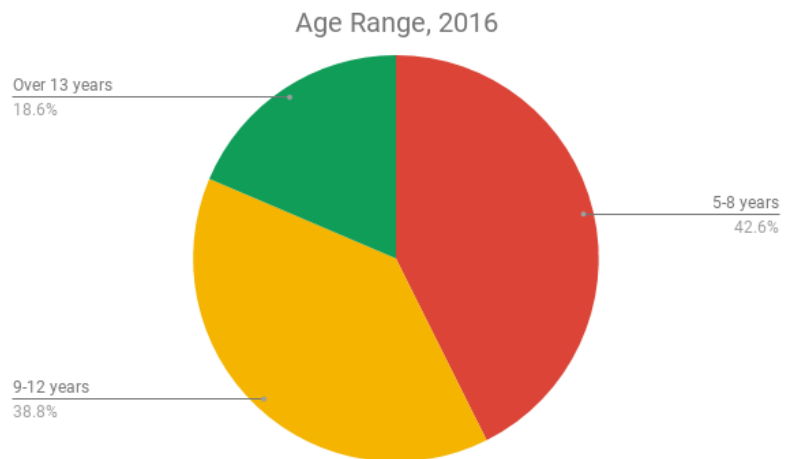


Percentage of Males and Females, 2016



Based on the survey, 58.5 % of campers were male and the remaining 41.5% were female.

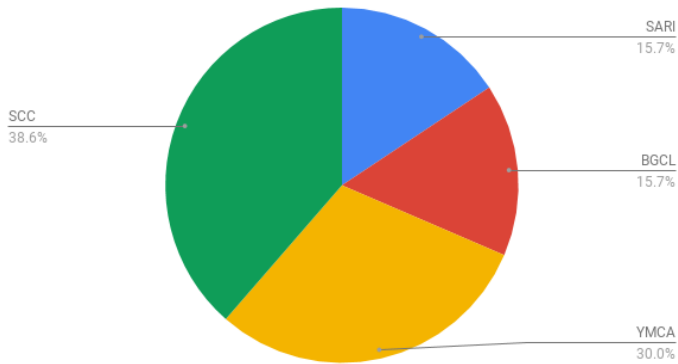
The majority of campers were between the ages of 5-8 and 9-12 years.



A word cloud of most popular comments from the 2016 surveys.

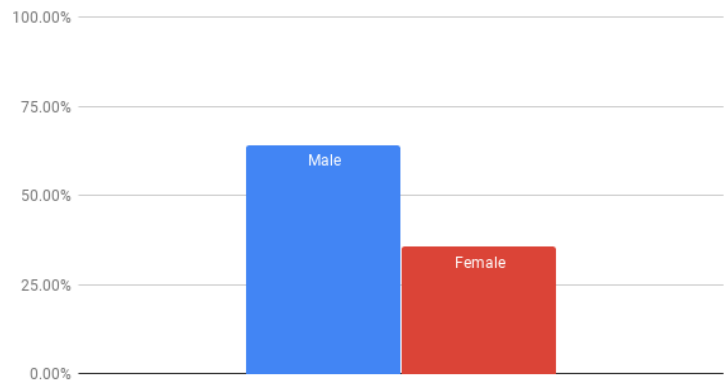
2017

Camping Cluster, 2017



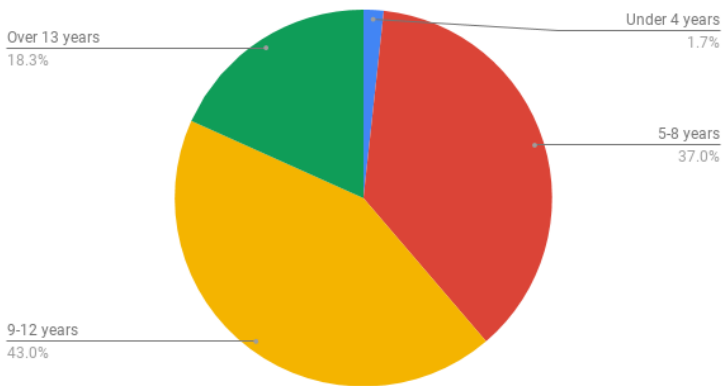
During the summer of 2017, there was a total of 140 campers.

Percentage of Males and Females, 2017



Of the 140 campers, 64.2% were male and 35.8% were female.

Age Range, 2017



Once again, the majority of campers were between the ages of 5-8 and 9-12 years.

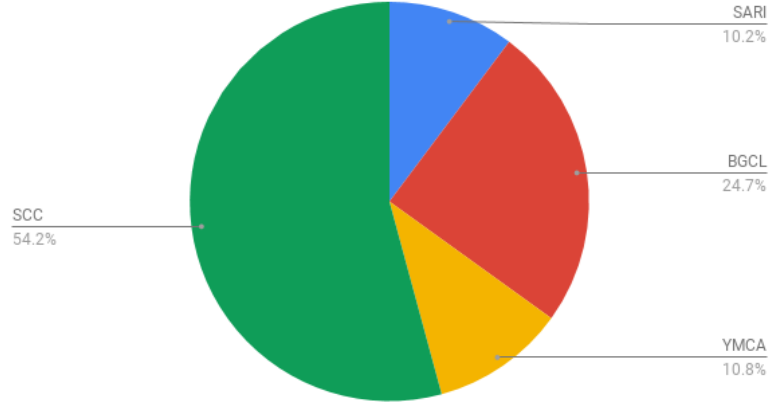
A word cloud of the most popular comments from the 2017 surveys.



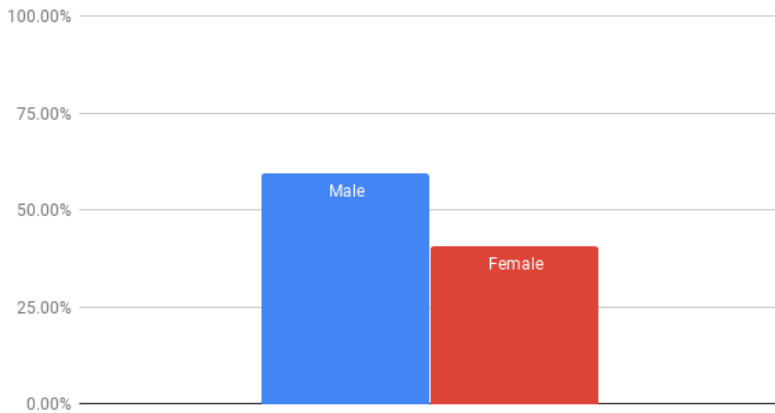
2018

During the summer of 2018, there was a total of 166 campers.

Camping Cluster, 2018



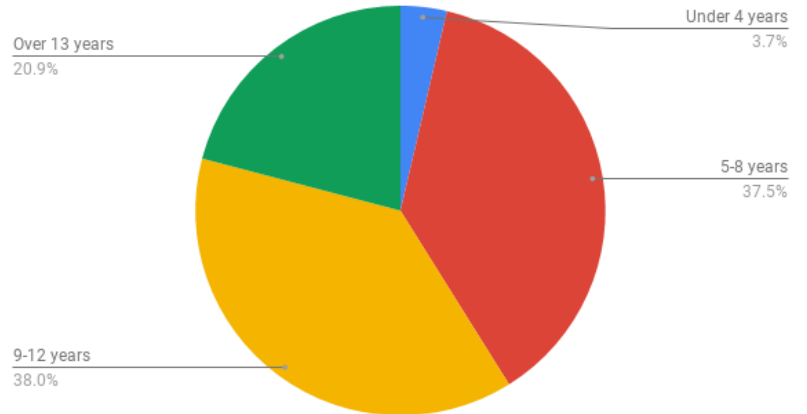
Percentage of Males and Females, 2018



Of those 166 campers, 59.38% were male and 40.63% were female.

The majority of campers were between the ages of 5-8 and 9-12 years.

Age Range, 2018

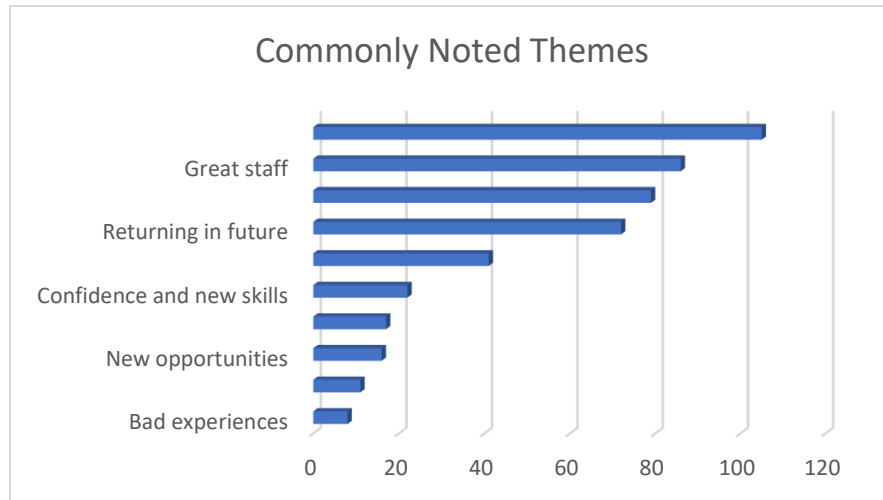


A word cloud of the most popular comments from the 2018 surveys.



Results

From the analysis of the data, 10 major themes were picked out.



1. Fun, enjoyment, loving the camp

- This theme appeared in 105 instances (codes) and was noted in 10 of the 11 files.

It was the most popularly mentioned theme in the data.

- “He always comes home happy and telling me about his day”
- “There is nothing more satisfying than seeing the smiles on my kids’ faces the moment we pull into camp”
- “Cannot stop talking about how much fun she had”

93.94% agreed with the statement “child had fun during their time at camp”

2. Great staff

- This theme appeared in 86 codes and was noted in every file. Parents frequently noted that their child had bonded with or grown close to their counsellor or inclusion worker.

- “Excellent inclusion worker again this year. My child quickly bonded and engaged with her”
- “My son and I both loved the counsellor. She’s friendly, outgoing, not afraid to be firm but loving when needed. She’s flexible with his needs and wants.”
- “The staff go out of their way to make the camp experience special for all campers.”

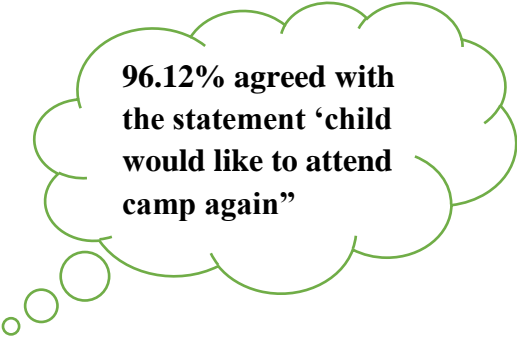
96% of parents felt comfortable leaving their child at camp

3. Gratitude

- This theme appeared in 79 codes and was noted in every file. Parents were generally very appreciative and wanted to thank the camp staff/counsellors for the experience they gave their child.
 - “Thank you for the efforts that were put to make this program great!
 - “Thank you for understanding him and all his needs and working with him.”
 - “You’ve all had a powerful, positive influence on our daughter and we are grateful.”

4. Returning in the future

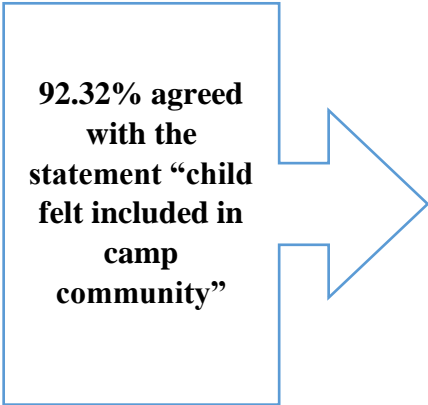
- This theme appeared in 72 codes across all 11 files. Parents frequently indicated that their child had asked to go back or was already looking forward to the following year. Many also mentioned that their child was interested in later becoming a counsellor at the same camp.
 - “We would love for him to be able to attend the boys and girls club again.”
 - “He has been asking to return to camp.”
 - “My daughter Sadie loves it so much she would like to be a camp counsellor there.”



96.12% agreed with the statement ‘child would like to attend camp again’

5. Inclusion, support, and care

- This theme appeared in 41 codes across all 11 files. Parents reported that their children’s individual needs were well attended to, and that their child felt that they were welcomed and included.



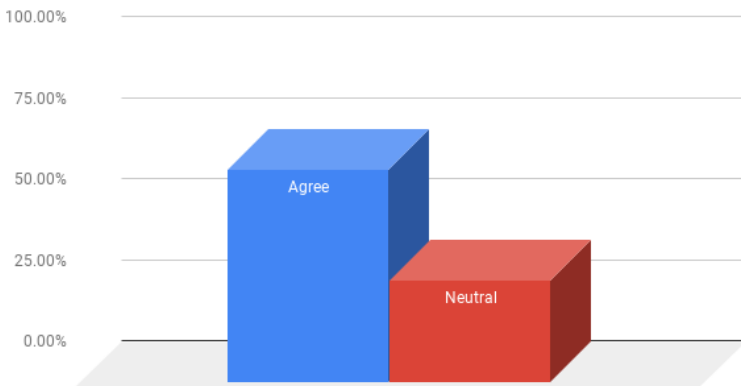
92.32% agreed with the statement “child felt included in camp community”

- “Kelly was absolutely fantastic at anticipating Kasey’s needs and avoiding meltdowns. The wide variety of activities available is awesome for a kid that gets bored easily.”
- “Staff see our son as an individual and work very hard to incorporate his needs and interests while at the same time helping him build on skills and areas that may be challenging him.”
- “He never felt that he was different or not included with the others.”

6. Confidence and new skills

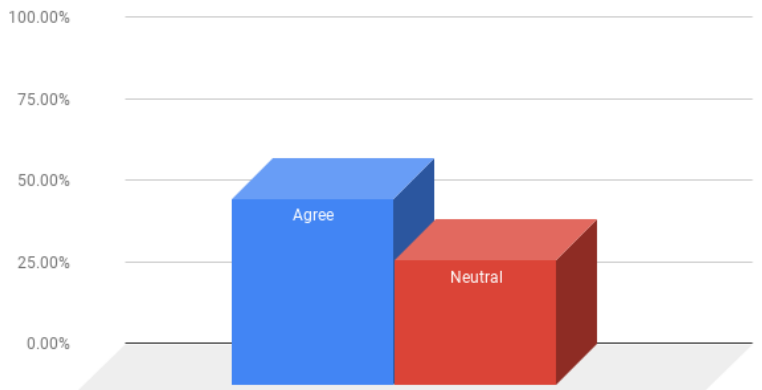
- This theme appeared in 22 codes across 8 of the 11 files. Parents noted that their children were more confident and independent and had worked on such skills as self-regulation and social skills.
 - “The happiness and confidence that they have, after being treated like such special souls at camp, is amazing.”
 - “We know every year he gets more confident advocating for himself and in building his self-esteem/confidence.”
 - “Gives kids such a great opportunity to work on independence, social skills, confidence, and to experience new things.”

Improvements in Child's Confidence



65.16% agreed and 31.12% felt neutral with the statement “noticed an improvement with child’s confidence”

Improvements in Child's Ability to Interact with Others



56.96% agreed and 37.95% felt neutral with the statement “noticed an improvement with child’s ability to interact with others”

7. Friendships

- This theme appeared 17 times across 6 of the 11 files. Parents reported that their children made friendships among the other campers and counsellors, or simply that they enjoyed interacting with others at the camp.
 - “She had developed such beautiful relationships with

69.21% agreed and 25.45% felt neutral with the statement “child developed friendships”

new camp friends and the counsellors.”

- “This year she really seemed to connect with girls who [were] of the same age or older.”
- One parent quoted their child: “Camp is good and made me make a friend. Jesse is my best friend.”

8. New opportunities and experiences

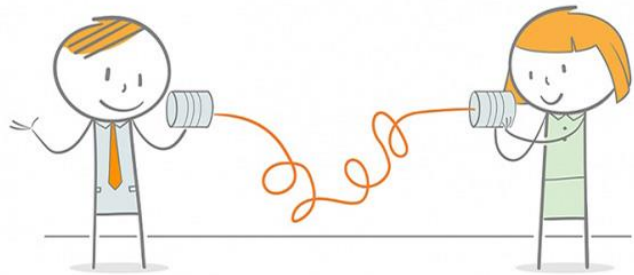
- This theme appeared in 16 codes across 6 of the 11 files. Many parents noted that simply staying overnight was a new experience for their child, and some noted new activities that their child had gotten to try.

94.96% agreed with the statement “ample opportunities for child to be physically active at camp”

- “She came home singing songs and talking about her princess training and the guide dogs... and the archery!”
- “You gave our daughter an exceptional first experience at overnight camp.”
- “Kids were involved in many and different kinds of activities.”

9. Communication

- This theme appeared in 11 codes across 7 of the 10 files. Parents really appreciated receiving regular communication from the camp staff. A minority of parents requested more communication than they were currently receiving.
 - “Appreciated being able to check in and see how she was doing and had a quick response each time.”
 - “Notes she made for us at the end of the week to let us know how the weeks and individual days went were very much appreciated.”
 - “Megan did a very good job of communicating with us. The communication sheets are very helpful.”



10. Bad experiences

- This theme appeared in 8 codes across 2 of the files. Notably, 7 of 8 codes came from the Stevenson 2017 file. Parents in this particular camp/year seemed quite unhappy with their child’s experience. There were multiple mentions of head lice, bullying, and carelessness among staff members.

- “My son got hit, smacked, kicked and bullied at camp... and no one did anything.”
- “My child returned home and told me that the staff had allowed her to eat the foods on her restricted list all week. Fortunately, her reactions are not life threatening, but still...”
- “My son was hurt, bullied, teased”
- “My daughter came home with lice from your camp. This was financially straining, and very stressful working for days to make sure they didn’t spread to me or my other two children.”

Recommendations

1. Inclusivity

- a. The surveys that were used for the past three years only have two options for gender identity (male and female). As some children may not associate with these binary gender identities it would be useful to create at the very least another option such as ‘other’.

2. More options

- a. Additional comments on the surveys indicated a need for more than 3 options for the statements. One noted that they wished there was an ‘unsure’ or ‘neither agree nor disagree’ option on the survey because that would have more accurately reflected their feelings.