

A Community Curriculum

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A neighborhood organization in a low-income neighborhood in Chicago visited seventeen randomly selected households and asked a resident what gifts, skills, passions and knowledge they had that they would be willing to share with their neighbors or their neighbors' children.

The seventeen neighbors provided 118 topics they were willing to share.

This knowledge represents a community curriculum providing a major resource for improving the power and well-being of the residents in the neighborhood. It is also neighborhood knowledge that, when shared with children, creates a village that "raises its children."

There are many ways of classifying this neighborhood knowledge for curricular purposes. The five classifications used in this curriculum is only one of the ways the knowledge can be classified. People using this curriculum can reclassify the topics or select those that seem most appropriate on their block or neighborhood.

Planning and Problem Solving

Planning (3)*
Problem solving (2)
Solution driven
Political analyst
Identifying internal weaknesses

Business

Business
Management
Business finance
Entrepreneurship (2)
Project manager
Business strategy
Business development
Job creation
Marketing
Bank accounting
Recovering credit reports

* If more than one of the seventeen residents indicated a particular ability, it would be followed by a parenthesized number. In this case 3 residents said they had planning abilities.

Personal Capacities

Organized
Creative (2)
Leader
Vision
Communicator
Articulate
Encourager
Hard-working (2)
Spirituality
Jazz listening
Discernment
Objectivity

Organizing and Relationship Building

Implementing change
Getting things done
Motivating people (3)
Effective listening
Connecting with others
Connecting diverse groups
How to inspire
Being effective with people (2)
Reaching out
Community organizing (2)
Human development
Organizing events (3)
Community outreach
Good eye for potential
Relationship building
Self esteem
Good neighboring

Skills

Cooking (6)
Mentoring (3)
Veterans services
Good with hands
Good with youth (8)
Multitasker
Doing radio voiceovers
Commentating
Public speaking (2)
Reading comprehension
Computers (5)
Mathematics (3)
Researching
Skating (3)
Real estate law
Writing
Sewing (2)
Singing
Teaching
Reading (2)
Caretaker
Medical assistant
Housekeeping
Carpentry
Electrical work
Plumbing
Sheet metal work
Gardening (4)
Landscaping
Decorating (3)
Handyman
Home improvement
Psychology
Negotiation
Legal knowledge
Painting
Grant writing
Financial aid
Knitting (2)

Repairs
Educating people
Politics
Global socio-economics
Experiencing outdoors
Environmental advocacy
Bike riding
Music
Involving youth in music
Working with seniors
Job training (2)
Personal finance
Working out
Helping others (2)
Fixing problem buildings
Literacy
Etiquette (3)
Wall hanging
Shopping second-hand stores
Shopping for antiques
Photography
Physical fitness
Economics
Dieticians
Grammar
English
Beginning journalism
Homeschooling
Breastfeeding
First aid
Hygiene
Real estate
Handcrafting
Justice for youth