

SumoKids Initiative Post-Program Survey (2007 – 2008)

1.0 Introduction

The Mouradian Group is a management consultant company based in Niagara. The company specializes in workplace relations and undertakes a wide array of survey work.

The Mouradian Group was invited to review the results of an opinion poll/survey conducted on behalf of the SumoKids Foundation. The survey sought to gauge the response of two important groups with respect to the impact of the SumoKids Initiative – parents and teachers. The SumoKids Initiative is an ‘after-school / pre-school’ program which teaches young people the basic rituals of sumo wrestling while engaging them on other developmental fronts. The 2006-07 program was run in a number of schools and community centers in the Buffalo, New York, area.

2.0 Methodology

A representative sampling of parents and teachers were asked a number of questions to ascertain how they perceived the reaction of the young participants to the SumoKids Initiative program. The survey sought to assess the impact of the program on three elements being Attitude, Attendance and Grades. The participants were invited to choose on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being a ‘poor’ rating and 5 being a ‘high’ rating. They were asked to score their children/students on the three elements ‘Before Sumo’ and ‘After Sumo’.

2.0 Parents

The parents’ survey clearly demonstrates the positive feelings generated by having the children participate in the SumoKids Initiative. The parents surveyed unanimously felt that their children’s attitude, attendance and grades improved as a result of this participation.

2.1 Attitude

The parents indicated a significant improvement in the attitude of the participants of the program. The parents scored their children on an average of 3.00 ‘before sumo’ and 4.18 ‘after sumo’. This is in essence over a twenty percent (20%) improvement.

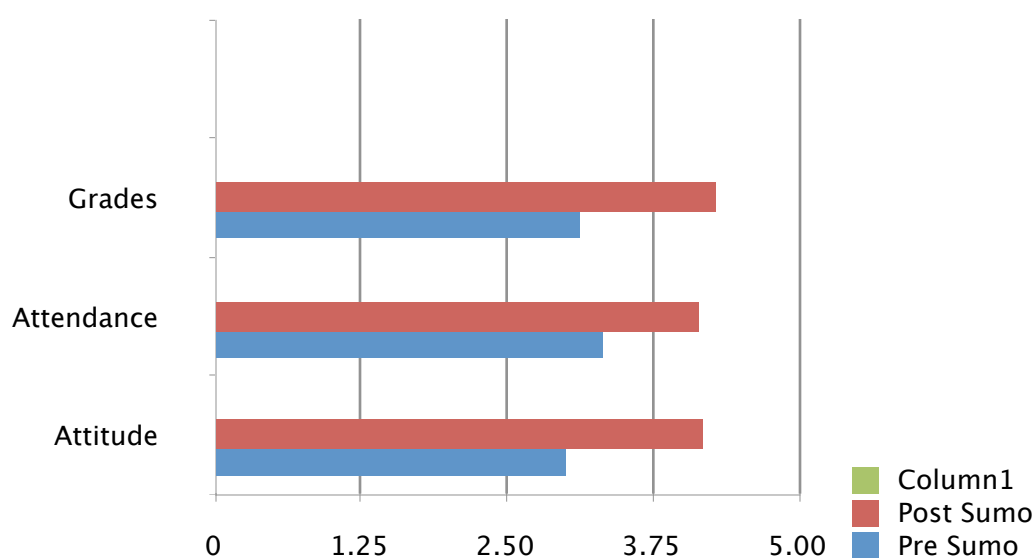
2.2 Attendance

The parents also indicated an improvement in attendance. Once again we see close to a twenty percent (20%) improvement as the score goes from a 3.32 'before sumo' average to a 4.14 'after sumo' average.

2.3 Grades

A similar improvement was perceived by parents when it came to grades. The parents indicated an improvement in the grades of their children moving from an average of 3.12 before sumo to an average of 4.29 after sumo.

Chart of Parent Responses



2.4 General Discussion

More for descriptive purposes than statistic analysis we can submit that the overall performance of the children improved through participation in the SumoKids Initiative from an average of 3.15 to one of 4.2. There was therefore a clear impression on the part of parents that their children improved in all three categories of attitude, attendance and grades. We can only assume that this impression was heightened by improved behaviour at home.

3.0 Teachers

The results of the teachers' survey was not quite as dramatic as that of the parents'. There was nonetheless a clear indication that the young people improved as a result of participation in the SumoKids Initiative program.

3.1 Attitude

The teachers indicated that the sampled students went from a 'before sumo' score of 3.65 to an 'after sumo' score of 4.35.

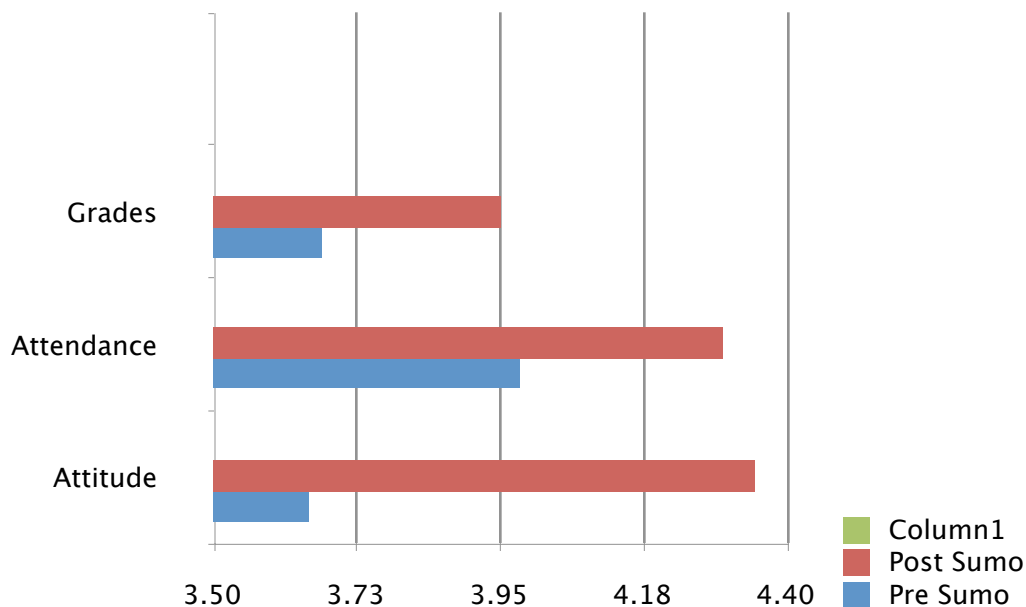
3.2 Attendance

There was also a marked improvement in attendance from a 3.98 score to a 4.3 average score.

3.3 Grades

There was improvement in the grades from a 3.67 average to a 3.95 average.

Chart of Teacher Responses



3.4 General Discussion

It is clear that the students improved overall from participation in the SumoKids Initiative. The weighted average went from 3.77 to 4.2.

4.0 Comments and Opinions

There were many comments expressing the view that this is a 'great' or 'excellent' program where the young people had 'fun'. The comments also indicated a clear understanding that something else positive was going on with this program. These includes comments such as "more respectful", "learned disciplined", "understands

school is a priority now”, “improved in school”, “liked being part of something” and “attitude has greatly improved overall”.

5.0 Conclusions

It is clear that participation in the SumoKids Initiative was a positive experience for all involved. Participation clearly improved the performance of the young people in terms of attitude, attendance and grades. The program also laid the foundation for further improvements by enhancing discipline and self-confidence. The SumoKids Initiative is therefore clearly worthy of ongoing support.

Respectfully submitted,

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