

D6 Paints

Greeley-Evans School District 6 Family Center Greeley, CO



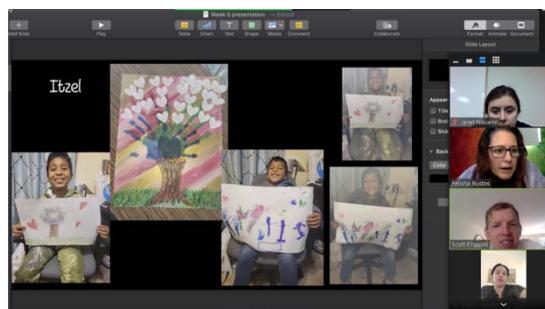
COLORADO
Department of Education

The goal of D6 Paints was to provide parents with a space to speak about mental health, specifically about the importance of parents taking time for themselves within the context of COVID-19 in which work, chores, and childcare have taken front and center.



The entire D6 Family Center staff was involved in the implementation of this practice, including the Director of Cultural Excellence & Family Engagement, an Art Teacher, the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition, and the Title 1 Specialist. Two Franklin Middle School secretaries also helped provide interpretation of documents and communication to families. Family Center staff personally invited families to the D6 Paints class. Additionally, flyers were shared with parents through the Center’s social media page and through schools’ emails home.

D6 Paints was an art class for families which included two time slots to best fit parent’s schedules—10AM on Wednesdays and 5PM on Thursdays. The art class started at the beginning of the spring semester and lasted for six weeks. The class focused on painting and creating art. Some parents painted a canvas of themselves (self-portraits) and others drew something they identified with or felt represented themselves.



After the six-week course, parents provided feedback to include another course for the whole family. Therefore, a second class was added with a focus around children’s books. The second class included a collaboration with the “Motheread Program” to read a book each week with a different theme. Families would then create art with their children related to the book. Parents reported that creating art about the books with their children helped them feel more involved with their children’s reading.

Some challenges faced during the implementation of the program included getting the materials to each family as well as poor internet connection. Some parents would join via cell phone and could not get good connection or see everyone on the call. The program remedied this by lending laptops to parents from the district.



The D6 Family Center staff’s advice to others wanting to replicate the program would be to make parents feel valued in order to build trust and interest in the event. It is important to build connections through phone calls and conversations and tailor the class to the group.