



Computers for Youth

We Bring Learning Home

**Parents Speak Up:
An analysis of parents' responses on CFY's post-
workshop surveys
October – December 2006**

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Methods

From October to December 2006, CFY completed six (6) Take IT Home trainings at six (6) schools: IS61, IS204, IS43, MS319, MS324, and IS232. This report summarizes analyses of a total of 1,038 participation surveys completed by students and their parents at the end of these training sessions.

All adult workshop participants answered questions related to CFY master teacher performance, anticipated impact of the Take IT Home program on the connection between home and school learning and parental involvement, and interest in continued involvement with CFY programs. In the earlier workshops (10/14, 10/21 and 11/04), the students completed a separate evaluation of the software programs and FaTT activities they learned about, and also answered three questions pertaining to the impact of CFY on their academic work and the connection they feel with their families.

Findings

Ratings of Adult Workshop Participants

- ❖ **Overall, adult workshop participants had a positive experience with the Take IT Home program and with their CFY Master Teachers.**

57% of the adult participants who completed the survey from October to December (n=556 out of a total 981) rated their experience with CFY as “excellent.” An additional 27% (n=261) rated their experience as “very good.”

68% of adults (n=666 out of a total 977) reported that their instructor made them feel “very” welcome and comfortable in class; 71% of adults (n=695 out of a total 979) agreed that the instructor explained “very well” how they can use their CFY computer to help their child succeed in school; and 65% (n=609 out of a total 939) reported that the instructor addressed “very well” individual questions and concerns. See **Table 1** for complete results.

Table 1 Adult participants' ratings of Take IT Home workshop (as a percentage of total)

	Excellent	Very Good
Please rate your experience with CFY today Total n=981	57% n=556	27% n=261
	Very Much	Pretty Much
How welcome and comfortable did your instructor make you feel? Total n=977	68% n=666	30% n=289
	Extremely Well	Pretty Well
How well did your instructor explain how your CFY computer can help your child in school? Total n=979	71% n=695	28% n=269

How well did your instructor address your individual questions and concerns?	65%	33%
Total n=1001	n=634	n=325

❖ Overall, adult workshop participants felt that because of CFY, they would be more able to help their child learn in the context of the home, and that the connection between their home and their child’s school would improve.

Approximately 96% of adult survey participants “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that because of CFY:

- They feel more confident that they can help their child learn
- Their home will be a better place for their child to learn
- They see more potential in their child to learn
- They feel more connected to their child’s school
- They believe that their child will do better in school
- They feel that their child’s school cares more about their family

See **Table 2** below for complete results.

Table 2 Adult participants' ratings of the impact of Take IT Home on parents, school relations, and learning in the home (as a percentage of total)

Because of CFY . . .	Strongly Agree	Agree
I feel more confident that I can help my child learn Total n=997	60% n=593	37% n=371
My home will now be a better place for my child to learn Total n=1001	63% n=634	33% n=325
I see more potential in my child to learn Total n=990	64% n=638	32% n=316
I feel more connected to my child’s school Total n=987	59% n=577	36% n=352
I believe my child will do better in school Total n=987	67% n=661	30% n=295
I feel my child’s school cares more about my family Total n=981	68% n=671	27% n=266

❖ While overall, parent ratings of the CFY Take IT Home program were consistently positive, parent response was more positive at some schools than others. In some cases, there were significant differences between schools in regard to their experience with CFY.

The six questions related to the impact of CFY on the connection between home and school learning and parental involvement constitute the *parental impact scale* (Chronbach’s Alpha= 0.924). A

comparison of participating schools based on this *parental impact scale* reveals that the CFY Take IT Home program had the strongest perceived impact on the parents of students at MS319 and MS324, and the weakest perceived impact at IS43. Statistical analyses reveal that there is a significant difference (ANOVA $F=6.437$, $p=0.000$) between participating schools in regard to the parental impact of the CFY Take IT Home program. See Figure 1 for a graphic illustration of these differences:

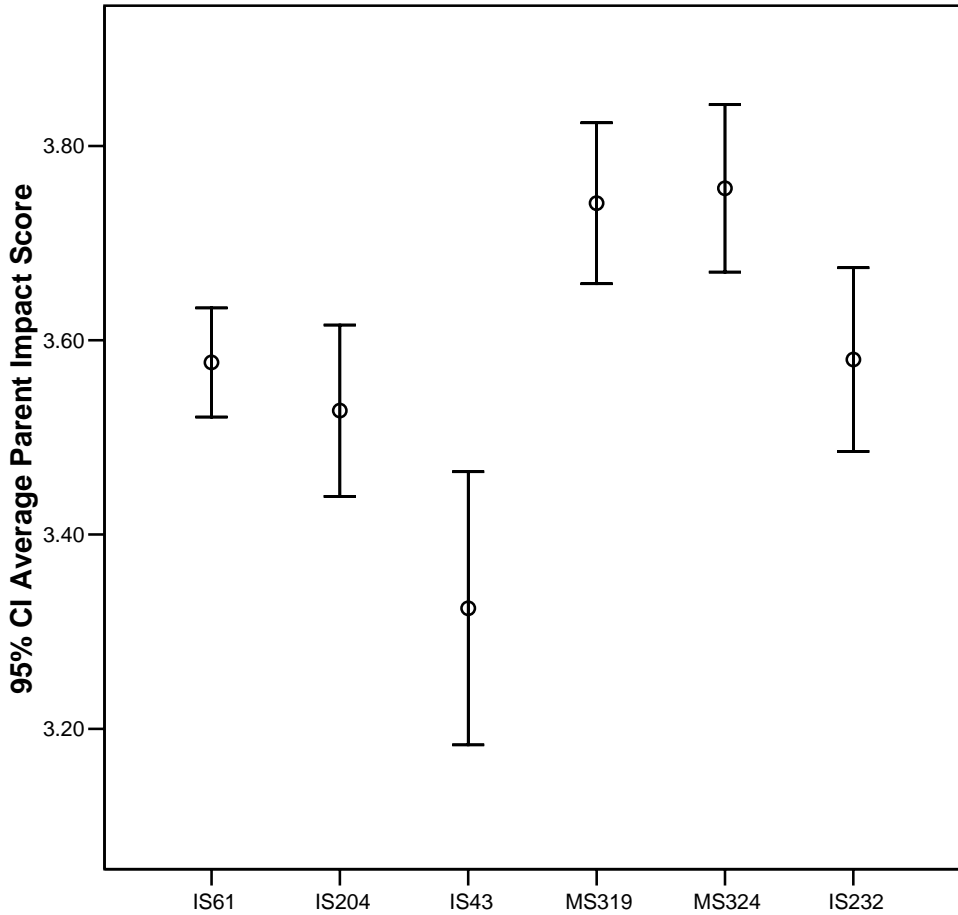


Figure 1: Average ratings on parent impact scale by school

Ratings of Student Workshop Participants

- ❖ **The CFY Take IT Home workshops had a positive impact on participating students, as well.**

Of the students that completed the surveys with the student questionnaire (approximately 515 students from IS61, IS204 and IS43), 58% “strongly agreed” and 36% “agreed” that because of CFY, they would do better in school. When asked if because of CFY, the students feel closer to their families, 47% “strongly agreed” and 38% “agreed.” Additionally, 64% “strongly agreed” and 28% “agreed” that because of CFY, they feel like their school cares more about them and their family. See **Table 4** below for complete results.

Table 4 Student participants' ratings of the impact of Take IT Home on school achievement and learning in the home (as a percentage of total)

Because of CFY . . .	Strongly Agree	Agree
I believe I will do better in school Total n=520	58% n=301	36% n=188
I feel closer to my family Total n=515	47% n=242	38% n=197
I feel like my school cares more about me and my family Total n=516	64% n=330	28% n=143

❖ **Participating students enjoyed learning how to set up and operate computers on their own, and looked forward to using the internet and word processor to complete their homework at home.**

During the months of October and November, workshop participants completed a two-page survey that included space for the child participants to write about their favorite part of the workshop, and also to make suggestions regarding how their teachers could encourage them to use their computers for homework. The most commonly mentioned favorite parts of the workshop were *learning how to hook up the computer, learning how to access the internet, and learning how to use the programs* (like Math Help, Word Processor, and Spreadsheet). Students also mentioned that they enjoyed learning to use the computer with their parents, other students and other parents.

In some cases, adults answered this question, and responses included “learning how to operate a computer with my daughter.”

Many students looked forward to using their CFY home learning centers to access the internet to do research for school reports, and to type up their reports. Several students also mentioned that they would use the math software to practice their math skills at home.

Reflections

In general, parents anticipated that the CFY Take IT Home program would have a strong impact on the home learning environment, their participation in their child’s learning, and on the connection they feel with their child’s school.

The variation in response patterns to the *parent impact scale items* indicates that parents were truly reflective in the answers they offered. Additionally, the variation by school in the responses given to these scale items suggest that CFY has a meaningful and differing impact on families in different parts of New York City.

These observations and others will be further considered in a follow-up report.