

School-age programming: What's In It For Me? (WIIFM)

Giselle Carter - January 2021

I get students in their last term, for a course on school-age programming. This is not an area in which these students will get a full-time job (it is an Early Childhood Education program), so a lot of students don't see the purpose in investing in this course. (The lack of a final exam also reduces their motivation to succeed in this course.)

However, I point out a number of things to the students (what's in it for them):

- Entry jobs into the field – when you start as a supply staff, often after-school programs are where you will start. It can also be a first “permanent” position. If you prove yourself knowledgeable and capable in those situations, you can move elsewhere in the field.
- Maybe you will discover that you love this age group and want to work with them – you never know until you experience it.
- Some of you will become supervisors one day and need to know about programming for all ages.
- Some of you will be parents one day – and it is helpful knowledge for that role too.
- Some of you will eventually want to go get a BA and to go teacher's college. This is a key course in learning about the early elementary grades.