

NEW REPORT ON QUALITY PRE-TEEN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Recognizing the importance of connecting young people to supportive environments during their critical preteen years, Public/Private Ventures (P/PV) has identified the characteristics of quality preteen after-school programs that are linked to positive outcomes. Based on the latest research and experience in the field, P/PV developed the publication, [*Putting It All Together: Guiding Principles for Quality After-School Programs Serving Preteens*](#), along with a companion [*Resource Guide*](#) that includes links to research and tools to strengthen programs.

Children in early adolescence go through intense physical, emotional, and cognitive changes. Successfully navigating early adolescence depends, in large part, on the availability of safe and engaging activities and supportive relationships with adults. Research shows that behavior patterns established at this stage may endure long into adulthood, yet many preteens have limited access to positive supports and opportunities—such as high-quality after-school programs—that could put them on a path to success.

While a host of factors -- including organizational capacity, the needs of the youth served and the resources available -- all play a role in determining a program's ability to achieve its goals, research suggests that the guiding principles in this report are essential for program quality. That quality, in turn, is the foundation for positive results for youth.

Putting It All Together and its companion guide serve as useful tools for after-school providers and others seeking to create positive opportunities for preteen youth.