

Minnesota Diversity Fellowship: Building Meaningful Community Connections

Jennifer Hall-Lande, Rebecca Dosch-Brown, Heidi Eschenbacher, Faviola Estrada, Ruth Evangelista, Carolina De La Rosa, Ashwak Hassan, Sheyhan Gelle



Project Aims

Increase knowledge and capacity of disability within a community-based organization (CBO) that serves diverse and/or underrepresented families

Inform ICI about how to increase staff/trainee diversity, support underserved individuals/families, and better serve diverse communities.

Lessons Learned

La Red

- Families want more information on disability and advocacy
- Parents want to gain confidence in ability to care for children
- Continue to engage & empower parents
- Need clear linguistically and culturally-appropriate communication to parents and providers about early child development

Dugsi Partnership

- A Mosque (Masjid) is place of worship AND place of connection and community
- Inclusive Dugsi families say they feel more welcomed, and not judged
- Some Dugsi teachers and Imams are helping open door for dialogue to promote access and inclusion to Mosques
- Power comes from community learning together and building alliances

La Red Partnership

La Red Latina de Educacion Temprana Network of Latino/ community, family, friend and neighbor child care providers



LA RED LATINA DE EDUCACION TEMPRANA
HERRAMIENTAS • CAPACITACION • LIDERAZGO • PODER

Partnership Goal Increase La Red community awareness about disabilities by sharing information, resources, referrals, and answering questions in cultural and linguistically appropriate way.

Activities

- Surveyed audience both to develop training topics and after trainings
- Provided Early Signs & Special Education training in Spanish
- Included parent voices and stories

Do you provide care for a child with a disability?



Do you feel you understand the needs of children with disabilities?



Next steps

- Continually update Spanish-language resource website for families. See z.umn.edu/disabilitylared
- Hold more trainings based on LaRed audience surveys

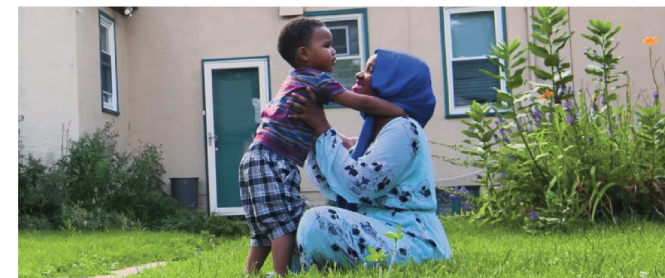
Dugsi Partnership

Dugsi Partnership Set up **Al-Rahman** ("compassion & kindness") Center inspired by local father who began Dugsi (Islamic school) for children with disabilities. We promote fuller disability inclusion at all Mosques in Twin Cities and address lack of access to mosque activities for families raising children with disabilities

Partnership Goal Create awareness and inclusion of children of all abilities in Mosque communities through work of Al-Rahman Center

Activities

- Held many dialogues with Imams, parent-leaders, & Dugsi teachers
- Ran 10+ workshops, and held sensory-friendly Eid celebration
- Attended Autism Society Minnesota conference leadership development



Next steps

- Run fundraising for sensory-friendly room at local Mosque
- Support film and discussion event at inclusive Dugsi school
- Fall symposium on inclusion for metro area Muslim community