Assessing The Impact of The Pillowcase Project.

Following a consultation of over 600 children and 300 adults in Australia and Mexico, The Pillowcase Project has proven to be very successful in preparing children for emergencies. However, households are not fully aware of their children’s new skills and how they could be used – something an expanded Pillowcase Project could well address in the future.

WHAT TO PACK FOR EMERGENCIES

In all schools visited, the students were very engaged and demonstrated an ability to think outside the box, adding key items not included in the original exercise.

PREPARING AN EMERGENCY KIT AT HOME

Pillowcase students in Grades 3 through 6 all referenced the correct items for a grab bag, while students who had not taken the course did not reference emergency kits.

HOUSEHOLD WITH EMERGENCY KITS

41% of households have emergency kits at home... but these kits were essentially basic or advanced First Aid kits.

In Mexico (outside of Oaxaca), only one third of respondents have first aid kits at home. But parents in Oaxaca have been using the children’s packing tips to prepare for the next earthquake.

The Pillowcase Project has clearly enhanced the knowledge of students around preparedness.

Most students do not currently use their pillowcase for preparedness.

Information is reaching parents, but they have not integrated The Pillowcase Project recommendations for packing for emergencies.

WHAT TO DO IN EMERGENCIES

80% of students consider that they would be able to use “Breathing with color” for stress management in an emergency.

ACTING IN EMERGENCIES

Pillowcase students from 3 years old referenced most of the key steps in response to a house fire, while other students often placed themselves in harm’s way.

Pillowcase students have used the “Breathing with Color” technique outside of the classroom, and have shown an ability to customize their response to the event.

The Pillowcase Project successfully builds stress management and emergency response abilities in students.

The Pillowcase Project has led to a change in behavior in response to emergency situations.

43% of parents feel readier than 6 months earlier and among those, 71% credit the Pillowcase session for their increased awareness of preparedness.

KNOwing one’s role

Who is responsible for preparing for emergencies?

Overall, only 27% of students who participated in the Pillowcase session consider that preparedness is everyone’s responsibility (including themselves), rather than the responsibility of adults (specifically Emergency Services and Grown-Ups).

FEELING I CAN DO IT

Do you know what to do in an emergency?

Overall, students who have not taken the Pillowcase course consider themselves equally prepared to students who did participate (roughly 70%).

Pillowcase students do not feel more confident that they will know what to do in an emergency.

Parents neither fully grasp the skills of their children nor have an increased confidence in the children’s ability to respond.

TRUST IN EACH OTHER’S ABILITY

While most respondents answered that they feel that their children would know what to do in an emergency, the expectations are limited to contacting emergency services and following the guidance of adults – i.e. not reflective of the children’s Pillowcase skills.