# Family Gym Final Presentation

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### Introduction to Family Gym

- Encourages physical activity & healthy lifestyles for children aged 3-8
  - o Targets underprivileged communities in/around Boston
- In-person programs suspended due to the pandemic, offer weekly
   Zoom sessions on Saturday mornings
  - Structured activities in a gym in normal environment
- Goal: reduce/prevent childhood obesity and promote healthy habits
  - Critical public health issue



#### ingredients

- · 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk (you can use dairy milk, almond milk, soy milk, or any other milk you want!)
   2 tablespoons oil
- 2 tablesp
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup or sugar
- · 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Toppings!
  - Fresh fruit
- Nuts (walnuts, almonds)
   Seeds (chia seeds, pumpkin seeds, flax seeds)
- Dark Chocolate
- Maple syrup

#### directions

- Mix together the flour, baking powder, and salt in one bowl
- In another bowl, mix together the milk, oil, maple syrup / sugar, and vanilla
- Combine the wet and dry ingredients and stir until combined
- Heat a pan over medium-low heat
- Scoop 1/4 cup of the mixture into the pan and cook for 2-3 minutes on each side (until golden brown)
- Top your pancakes with lots of fresh fruit and whatever else you like!

Example infographic provided by Kevin Wong

### Our Role

Holly	Jordan	Satwik
<ul> <li>Behavioral Neuroscience major</li> <li>Global Health minor</li> <li>Passionate about alleviating health disparities</li> <li>Hope to become a pediatric PA &amp; very interested in childhood development</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Civil Engineering and         Architectural Studies Major</li> <li>Food Run Leader for the         Food Recovery Network at         Northeastern</li> <li>Passionate about bridging         inequalities and         global/community well-being</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Computer Science major</li> <li>Interested in health &amp; fitness</li> <li>Seen impact of COVID on child PE</li> <li>Charity work with Ekal</li> <li>Curious about intersection between health and tech         <ul> <li>Apps/wearables</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Community Needs Assessment

- Targets disadvantaged communities around Boston that have limited access to safe spaces to play or get structured physical activity
- BPS system has high prevalence of childhood obesity (1)
  - Correlates with adult obesity and cardiovascular diagnoses
- Family Gym program: drop-in, free of charge, low commitment -- all incentivizes participation, no glaring disincentives

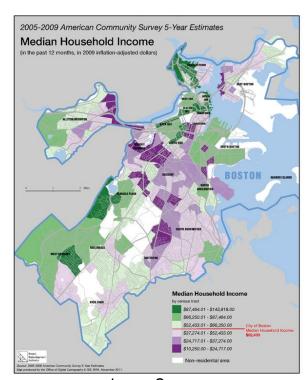


Image Source: http://www.bostonplans.org/getattachment/9c 6bf812-d979-4367-8b0d-87b1e63e86ea/

### Community Assets & Constraints

#### Assets:

- Physical/green space
  - Not used to its capacity
- The young ages of the children targeted
  - Reversibility of intervention
  - Physical and cognitive development (2)
- Parental motivation
  - Caregivers required to participate

#### **Constraints:**

- Current lack of ability to meet in person
  - Lack of technology access may be a further constraint
- Public schools' lack of focus on physical activity and nutrition (3)
  - Hard to retain activity
- Diverse community makeups
  - Hard to target different racial/ethnic groups (4)

### **Action and Service**

### Challenge:

 Create education-based deliverables to encourage physical activity and nutrition for program participants and their parents

#### Two goals:

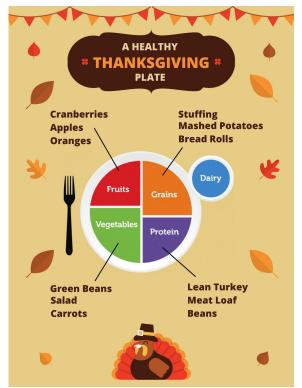
- Maximize the perceived benefits of the exercise/nutrition to achieve better attention to and retention of material (5)
- Highlight the accessibility of making even small changes that can have great impact

#### **YOGA POSES**



Grab a friend and try these poses!

# Examples of Jordan's Deliverables







### Examples of Satwik's Deliverables

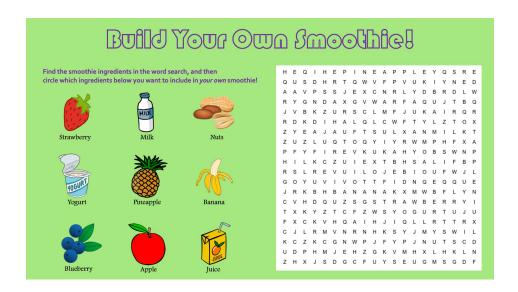






- DRINK 8 CUPS OF WATER
- STRETCH EVERY HOUR
- TAKE A BREAK EVERY 20 MINUTES ON A SCREEN
- LIMIT SUGARY FOOD
- SPEND TIME OUTSIDE!

### Examples of Holly's Deliverables





# Measuring Our Impact

- Discussion with supervisor regarding submitted materials
- Informal conversation with families regarding successful
   vs. less popular materials
- Direct monitoring of engagement levels over Zoom sessions (if applicable)
  - Can track attendance, if video is turned on/off, actual physical participation based on video footage



Infographic that could use editing

# Suggestions for Sustaining

- Shift some of Family Gym's programming and funds into:
  - Improving access to technology for families (at the moment)
  - Providing healthy meals to families directly
- Decide to continue virtual programming post-COVID to allow greater attendance by offering both formats simultaneously

- Expand program length
- Create more follow-up on recipes and exercises
  - Suggest bringing in a
     recipe the week after
     receiving it, demonstrate
     an exercise the following
     week after learning it, etc.

### Conclusion

- Family Gym has done a lot to address one of America's biggest health issues, childhood obesity, and does a great job promoting future healthy habits
  - Adapted well to a virtual environment during the pandemic
- Through our child-friendly deliverables, we have made an impact on a dynamic environment that has been drastically affected by COVID-19
  - Teaching + promoting healthy habits preventative healthcare

Questions?

### References

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