Why did you decide to implement DSC's AfterSchool programs? When did you start?
DSC offers high quality programs that integrate multiple subject areas while building critical-thinking skills in an engaging way—which we like to call “disguised learning” in the after-school world. Implementation of the KidzLit and KidzMath programs began in 2006, and we began the KidzScience and Science Explorer programs during the 2009–10 school year.

What programs do you use and how much time is dedicated to each per week?
We use KidzLit, KidzMath, KidzScience, and Science Explorer. Implementation varies by site and the number of participants. LA's BEST serves 28,000 children on a daily basis. Each site is expected to conduct literacy, mathematics, and science-related activities, as these subject areas are part of LA's BEST Core Components. The KidzLit, KidzMath, and KidzScience programs are available at sites to enhance the activities.

What academic and social improvements have you seen in your participants since implementation? How has it affected your leaders?
Our KidzLit children have shared with their leaders how much they enjoy learning about cultures. Specifically, they enjoy the new vocabulary words in English and other languages presented in the stories. Kids are given the chance to share their opinions on the stories and how they might change the outcome. In regards to the leaders, once they saw how much children at different ages enjoy being read to, they made story time an integral part of the day.

How have you benefited from the New York Life Grant? Or the Oracle Initiative?
We have benefited immensely from both the New York Life Grant and Oracle Initiative. With the subsidized material prices, we have purchased the KidzLit, KidzMath, and KidzScience programs for almost all of our sites.

How has DSC's ongoing commitment to professional development helped ensure success for your organization?
DSC has offered high-quality training opportunities at leadership and site staff levels. Additionally, I have taken advantage of the professional development resources that DSC has to offer.