



FOODPLAY Feedback

...from New Mexico

“As a family physician, I think FOODPLAY is a great program. Family medicine is all about prevention, and this speaks to kids very simply, effectively, and is awesome. I was listening to one of the kids at the snack table and he asked his friend, ‘When was the last time you had a whoa food?’ So, it spoke to the kids. That was amazing to see. This is the age you want to start because they’re very impressionable and they hang on to what you say, so they’re really going to make the changes that you suggest. We’re so glad we saw FOODPLAY today! It’s been a great experience! I sit on the Medical Executive Committee at San Juan Regional, and I would love to have you guys partner with us and our community to help raise healthy kids and healthy adults.”

—Holly Abernathy, MD, Family Medicine Physician, San Juan Regional Medical Center, Farmington, NM

“FOODPLAY is definitely something that needs to be seen by all the pueblos in New Mexico. It’s very important: the earlier you can reach the child, the better. My son loved the program, and loves to talk about it with his friends. Kids are going to talk about what they see. In fact, we went to the pediatrician’s office about a week and a half after FOODPLAY, and my son was so excited to be able to answer all the questions about nutrition and physical activity. And it was because he saw FOODPLAY! The performers are just fantastic, and they know how to get the kids excited!”

—Denise Mokino, Tourism Director, Pueblo de San Ildefonso, NM

“FOODPLAY was awesome! We’re really excited about it. We have a Healthy Kids initiative, so it really fits in! I’m from the Pueblo de San Ildefonso and the Jemes Pueblo, and I’ve been telling other folks to bring FOODPLAY to their communities, too. There are lots of kids who would really benefit!”

—Raelene Gonzales, Program Assistant for Health & Wellness and Diabetes Programs, Pueblo de San Ildefonso, NM

“We just saw FOODPLAY and I think it is a very important message because the majority of our students are Native American, and Native American communities have been ravaged by diabetes over the last thirty years as fast food restaurants have multiplied in the area. So it’s great information for our kids, both the exercise and the nutrition information that they need to know. We loved the program!”

—Debbie Braff, Principal, Apache Elementary School, Farmington, NM

“We set up FOODPLAY this year as part of our Wellness Policy and Wellness program at our elementary schools. My staff told me it was good, but I didn’t know until I saw it how good it really is. It is fabulous. It is great. The kids just loved it. I’ve never seen such participation. They were animated. It was educational. I loved the presentation and the way they got their message across.”

—James Barfoot, Assistant Superintendent, Farmington Public Schools, Farmington, NM

“I loved FOODPLAY! I am now going to reevaluate some of the things I’ve been doing. I have a reward system in my classroom, and the kids have a drawing every week. I used to give them popcorn and a soda, but I’m not going to give them sodas anymore. I really appreciated the program!”

—Mrs. Winter, 4th Grade Teacher, Capitan Elementary School, Capitan, NM

“FOODPLAY is awesome! We love you guys! The program is fantastic, unbelievable. We have a very unique student body. I think that our community represents America to a T. It’s a very diverse community, representing Anglo kids, Hispanic kids, Native American kids. FOODPLAY was fantastic in the way that it put messages together, it was so energetic, it communicated well to the kids, and the kids really responded. I think FOODPLAY made a great point today, and our kids were listening. I could hear some teachers talking about how they’re going to put FOODPLAY’s messages into their lesson plans to follow up. I’m pretty excited about that!”

—Jarrett Perry, Principal, Capitan Elementary School, Capitan, NM

“FOODPLAY was the most fantastic show I’ve seen on nutrition and educating kids! The children really get engaged with the enthusiasm of the performers, and the messages are so wonderful. One kindergarten teacher told me the show should be here twice a year; right now is a great time, and then again before the summer so that the kids can have the message imprinted again. FOODPLAY reinforces everything I tell my kids in my cooking classes about MyPlate and reading labels, but in a much more fun way. And, when they see it presented by another entity, it helps me with my messages in the class.”

—*Deb Barbe, Nutrition Educator, Cooking with Kids, Santa Fe, NM*

“Our population in the four corners area is basically one third Hispanic, one third Native American, and one third Anglo. Diabetes is a problem here. We really need to get FOODPLAY’s message out there. We saw the show, and it was awesome! I believe that if every student in America could see it, it would help so many people! I believe in what you all are doing. Keep up the good work!”

—*David Flores, Librarian, Farmington Public Library, Farmington, NM*

“FOODPLAY was an amazing performance. Great enthusiasm, impressive juggling and acrobatics, and great script and acting! Our kids and staff loved it and the enthusiasm of the actors. The next day, students kept saying, ‘Read it before you eat it!’ along with the fun hand motions! They’ll definitely be taking what they learned back to their parents!”

—*Coleen Korce, Principal, Tesuque Elementary School, Santa Fe, NM*

“We just saw FOODPLAY and it was wonderful for our classes. There were so many exciting aspects. The adults were so involved, as well. Even though we packed 556 kids into the audience, you could have heard a dime drop as the actors were talking. From kindergarten to adults, FOODPLAY was a very interactive program and we all really loved it. Thank you!”

—*Theresa Ulibarri, Principal, Sweeney Elementary School, Santa Fe, NM*

“I saw FOODPLAY and I thought it was delightful. The kids had a great time, and I was really impressed with what they learned in the game-show segment. The kids really got it, and it’s great to see the healthy choices they’re making in the cafeteria!”

—*Shirley Crawford, Superintendent, Capitan Municipal Schools, Capitan, NM*

“We just had the FOODPLAY program, and one of the 2nd graders came up to me and said, ‘I don’t want it to end! I want to see it again!’ I love the way the kids responded, and they were so engaged the whole time; very interested in going home to tell their families what they learned. And I am very excited to see the kids as they come back and make good choices at our lunch bar!”

—*Christie Berg, Assistant Principal, Turquoise Trail Charter School, Santa Fe, NM*

“FOODPLAY was excellent, and very appropriate to the needs of our students. It conveyed messages of good nutrition and healthy lifestyles in a great way, and kept the audience engaged. I hope we can have the program at other pueblos in the spring!”

—*Carol Johnson, Public Health Nutritionist, Okhay Owingeh Wellness Program, Okhay Owingeh Pueblo, NM*

STUDENT FEEDBACK:

“I liked the whole play! It was the best play I have ever seen in my whole life!”

—*Anna, 1st Grade, Esperanza Elementary School, Farmington, NM*

“It was awesome! My favorite parts were when the boy was juggling and the girl was eating healthy food. I learned to eat five fruits and vegetables each day!”

—*Angel, 3rd Grade, Esperanza Elementary School, Farmington, NM*

“It was so cool! I’m going to stop drinking soda. I’m going to start drinking water! And, I’m going to tell my parents we shouldn’t drink so much soda, but water instead.”

—*4th Grader, Tecumseh, NM*