

Research Questions

1. How and to what extent do Brains On!'s coronavirus-based episodes help children and their families understand and talk about science-related pandemic topics? What kind of conversations are sparked by these episodes?
2. What kinds of worries and questions do Brains On! listeners have about coronavirus and related aspects of the pandemic? How do children's worries and questions change over the course of the pandemic?
3. What resources do caregivers need to answer children's questions and help them understand science topics related to the pandemic?

Methods

June 2020: Brains On! listener survey and review of children's questions submitted to Brains On!

Dec. 2020/Jan. 2021: Brains On! listener survey (children's questions part of the survey)

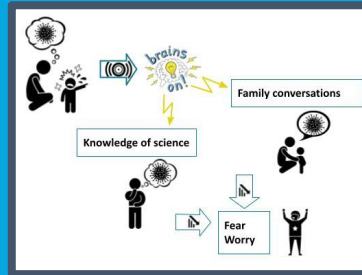
RAPID: Addressing Families COVID-19 Information and Education Needs Through Podcast Media



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Model of How Brains On! Supports Children During the Pandemic



Project Deliverables

- Project website www.brainson.org/page/coronavirus
- Nine Brains On! pandemic-related episodes that have had over 2 million total downloads!
- Two short Brains On! videos about vaccines
- Resource guide for talking to children about COVID-19
- Research reports

Design Features that Supported Learning and Conversations

- Episode topics
- Reinforces information
- Kid-friendly and age-appropriate content
- Information presented in an interesting/fun way
- Serves as a conversation prompt
- Accurate information from a trusted source
- Models calmness
- Positive messaging
- Conveys that we are in this together
- Features scientists or kids on the show
- Encourages kids to ask questions
- Shared vocabulary
- Brains On! hosts



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