FDELK Research Year 1
Presentation to Atkinson Task Force
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Janette Pelletier

Building on ongoing research

- Ongoing: measure the implementation and impact of Peel Best Start compared to half-day kindergarten controls
  - Implementation & impact on staff teams, parents and children
- New: addition of FDELK
  - Continue with research questions
  - Examine Year 1 child outcomes of full-day early learning/kindergarten compared to half-day controls

Number of children

- Best Start (5 sites) = 329
  - Best Start data not reported here
- FDELK (7 sites) = 184
- Control (5 sites) = 183

Research design of study

- Best Start, control & FDELK groups
- Longitudinal: K-Gr 3, same sites
- Cross-sectional: three cohorts
- Within-subjects: same children at different time points
- Between-subjects: comparison of groups at same or different time points
- Qualitative: descriptive data
- Quantitative: numerical data
Analyses & results reported today

- Analyses comparing FDELK children with control group (based on first year of FDELK)

Staff (sample results)

- Staff surveys
  - Rating scales (e.g. benefits of program)
  - Open-ended questions (e.g. “What do you think are the benefits and/or drawbacks of putting these services into schools?”)
- Indicators of Change focus groups
  - Changed with FDK (to 3 dimensions from 5)
  - Helps sites to examine their growth along a continuum of integration

Acknowledgement of Ainsley Gibson, MA Candidate in Child Study and Education program at the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study, OISE/UT

- Ainsley developed some of the ECE/K Teacher questionnaire items regarding the perception of hierarchy
Indicators of Change
Sample results from focus groups
- Peel Best Start
- FDELK

FDELK: Example 1

FDELK: Example 2
Parents (sample results)

- Surveys
- Parenting Daily Hassles

FDELK parents’ most significant daily hassles based on mean ratings

- How “much” of a hassle (how much parents feel stressed by these factors):
  1. Getting my child ready in the morning
  2. Making alternate child care arrangements when my child is sick
  3. Staying in contact with the classroom teacher about day-to-day things

Child data (a few sample results)

Vocabulary

Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test
Which one is cat? Point to cat.
**Early Reading**

**Test of Early Reading Ability**
Point to the picture that starts with the letter 'c'  

- car  
- stool  
- baby

**Phonological Awareness**

Example: Same initial consonant  
Say & point: bike...... mop, ball, sun  

*Point to the picture that starts with the same sound as bike*
Early writing (Teacher has five little red crayons)

Early writing JK & SK

Controlling for maternal education and child age

Early number knowledge (examples of items)

4-year old:
- I’m going to show you some counting chips (Show a line of 3 red and 4 blue chips in a row, as follows: R B R B R B B). Count just the blue chips and tell me how many there are.

6-year old:
- If you had 4 chocolates and someone gave you 3 more, how many chocolates would you have altogether?
- What number comes right after 7?

Differences in Number Knowledge in SK

Controlling for maternal education and child age
**Draw yourself doing something here**

Me and my friend Karim. Now I can draw a bin. Our bin is brown. I put fish on it. The bird bin is a big one.

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**I made a rainbow for Mommy... sitting on a table and I’m using scissors and cutting it out for Momma**

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**What do Kindergarten children draw?**

- Drawing Visual
- Drawing Abstract
- Drawing Play
- Drawing Physical

**Drawing Complexity (degree of integration of drawing components)**

- Control
- Sex Start
- Full-Size Kindergarten

Controlling M education. Significant difference in OCD.
Child interview with finger puppets

- Child chooses a puppet for herself/himself and one for the researcher
- “Tell me about your day from the time you leave home until you go back home”

Other interview questions

- What do is your favourite thing here?
- What do teachers do?
- What’s important to learn here?
- What should kids do if someone starts a fight?
- What should kids do if someone wants to play something they don’t like?
- What should kids do if someone is crying?
CONTACT INFORMATION

Janette Pelletier, PhD, Director
Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study
OISE/University of Toronto
45 Walmer Road
Toronto, ON
M5R 2X2
(416) 934-4506
janette.pelletier@utoronto.ca