



# GETTING PRESCHOOLERS READY FOR SCHOOL: PARENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF THE HOME LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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*Parents' perceptions of the home relations between parent and teacher factors and children's school readiness skills.* SRCD, virtual.

# INTRODUCTION

- Academically-related activities preschool children do at home are associated with early and subsequent educational development.

(McCormick et al., 2020; Sonnenschein & Sawyers, 2018; Watts et al., 2014)



# LIMITATIONS OF PRIOR RESEARCH

- Much of the research on the home environment was conducted over 10 years ago.
- Most studies ask about the frequency of participating in an activity but do not ask for how many minutes.



# METHOD

- $N = 126$  parents
- Used online Qualtrics survey

**Table 1.** Study I demographic characteristics of the sample ( $N = 105$ ).

Variable	<i>M(SD)</i> or %
Parent age (years)	36.87 (4.46)
Relation to child (%)	
Mother	94
Race/ethnicity (%)	
White	92
Highest educational degree (%)	
BA/BS	30
Post-Graduate	63
Income (%)	
<25,000	2
25,000–49,000	1
50,000–74,000	7
75,000–99,000	13
100,000–124,000	17
125,000+	58
Child gender (% female)	40
Child age (years)	4.98 (0.85)
Type of school child attends (%)	
Head start or Judy center	2
Public pre-K	13
Private pre-K	75
Home or informal care	1
Other	9

**Table 2.** Sample items from parent questionnaire.

	Response type
How important do you think it is for your child to do [reading/math] activities at home?	Likert (1-5)
How important is it for you to help your child with [reading/math] at home?	Likert (1-5)
How many days per week does your child do [reading/math] activities at home during the school year?	Select 1-7
On average, how many minutes per day does your child engage in [reading/math] activities at home during the school year?	Open-ended
How confident are you that you know what to do to support your child's learning in [reading/math]?	Likert (1-5)
What would you like to receive more of from your child's teacher to help your child's [reading/math]?	Select up to 3
How satisfied are you with the [reading/math] information/materials/activities your child's teacher sends home?	Likert (1-5)

# RESULTS:

## Frequency of Doing Reading & Mathematics Activities

- Parents prioritized children's reading ( $M = 4.83$ ,  $SD = 0.47$ ) over their mathematics ( $M = 4.55$ ,  $SD = 0.72$ ) development,  $t(122) = 5.07$ ,  $p < .001$ .
  - Reading: 86% said was very important.
  - Mathematics: 68% said was very important.
- How often?
  - Reading: 65% said their children read 7 days a week for, on average, 29.42 minutes a day.
  - Mathematics: 3-7 days (15, 23, 18, 22%), 17% said 2 or fewer days. When children do mathematics, they did so for 16.90 minutes.



# RESULTS:

## Parents' Confidence to Assist their Children

- Reading: 35% not confident
- Mathematics: 44% not confident,  $t(125) = 4.45, p < .001$



# RESULTS:

## What Parents Want to Receive

- Most parents wanted more information re: reading (61%) and mathematics (64%).
- Most parents were satisfied with they received.

## However:

- 33% not satisfied with reading materials, 34% not satisfied with what they received for mathematics learning.

# RESULTS:

What would you like to receive more of from your child's teacher to help your child's [reading/math]?

**Table 3.** Information, materials, and activities parents would like to receive more of to support learning at home.

Items	Reading (%) (n=81)	Math (%) (n=127)
Books	22	17
Informational newsletters or pamphlets	7	6
Instructions for activities to do at home	51	42
Links to websites about reading or math	12	8
Music or songs	20	22
Notes or updates on progress	53	35
Recommendations for apps, websites, or video games	41	19
Toys or games	43	45
Worksheets/homework	24	28
Other	4	2

# CONCLUSION

- Parents continue to prioritize reading over mathematics.
- We need to consider how confident parents feel to assist their children.
- The relation between home and school is critical. Parents would welcome more information about how their children are doing and activities they can do with their children.
- Limitations:
  - Sample

# QUESTIONS?

- For questions, please contact:

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