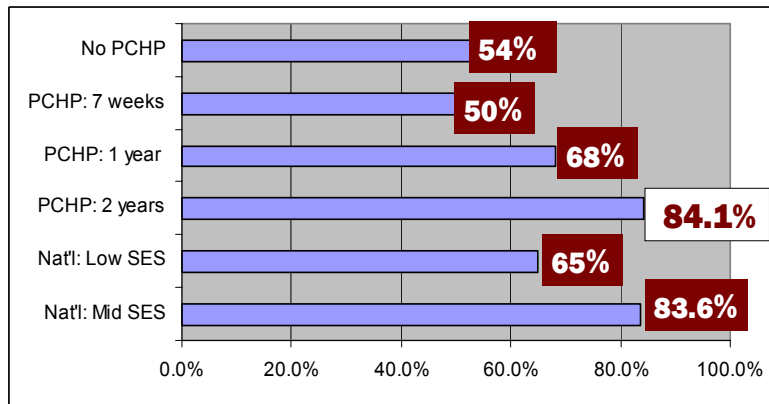


**Long-term impact of a verbal interaction program for at-risk toddlers: An exploratory study of high school outcomes in a replication of the Mother-Child Home Program (The Parent-Child Home Program). (*Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 1998)**

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Levenstein, P., Levenstein S., Shiminski, J.A., & Stolzberg, J.E. (1998) Long-term Impact of a Verbal Interaction Program for An Exploratory Study of High School Outcomes in a Replication of the Mother-Child Home Program. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 19 (2): 267-285

High school graduation is a major long-term goal of cognitive programs for preschoolers at risk for educational disadvantage. One hundred twenty-three young adults who had been in five yearly cohorts of at-risk toddlers eligible for a replication of the Mother [Parent]-Child Home Program, a play-filled and non-didactic home-based

intervention promoting parent-toddler verbal interaction, were studied 16 to 20 years later for their high school performance. Subjects who had completed this program replication, the Pittsfield Parent-Child Home Program, as toddlers were significantly less likely than randomized controls to drop out of school (15.7% vs. 40.0%,  $p = 0.03$ ), and more likely to have graduated (84.1% vs. 53.9%,  $p = 0.01$ ). On an intention-to-treat basis, 76.9% of all subjects who enrolled in the program and 53.9% of controls graduated from high school ( $p = 0.07$ ). With adjustment for baseline IQ scores the advantage of program subjects persisted (multivariate Odds Ratio 2.12,  $p = 0.28$ ). The dropout rate of program enrollees was lower than the mean for all Pittsfield students, while program completers matched the national graduation rate for middle-income students. The results of this exploratory study suggest that long-term improvement in academic performance may be achieved by using the Mother [Parent]-Child Home Program's approach; indicate the exportability of this program; and appear to justify further controlled long-term studies of the program.