Kindergarten Readiness and School Success for Buffalo Parent-Child Home Program Graduates

In 2006, the King Center Charter School, then located at the King Urban Life Center in Buffalo, New York, completed a study of the educational outcomes for children participating in its Early Admission Program for three- and four-year-olds from low income, minority families. Families admitted to this program were given the option to participate in the Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP), and the study included a data analysis of these children in order to examine the efficacy of PCHP in preparing young children at-risk for educational disadvantage before they had even entered kindergarten for school success.

All students, those that completed the Parent-Child Home Program and those that did not participate, were assessed at three different times: 1) entering kindergarten; 2) leaving kindergarten; and 3) as third and fourth graders.

Literacy skills and school readiness were measured when entering and leaving kindergarten by the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (PPVT).

Parent-Child Home Program graduates entered kindergarten with better literacy skills than similarly situated non-Program children had when they completed kindergarten. Non-PCHP children did not catch up, even after being in the same kindergarten program.

The Parent-Child Home Program graduates earned an average score of 99.9 on the PPVT upon entering kindergarten and an average score of 104.7 upon completing kindergarten.

The non-Program students earned an average score of 89.4 upon entering kindergarten (10.5 points behind their PCHP counterparts) and an average score of 94.7 upon completing kindergarten (still 10 points behind their PCHP counterparts).
School success was measured by the children’s scores in third and fourth grade on the New York State English Language Arts and Math assessments. Parent-Child Home Program graduates performed significantly better than non-Program children on both assessments.

Significantly more PCHP children scored as "Proficient", a score level of 3 or 4, than non-PCHP children, both than the non-PCHP students in the charter school (27% more in Math, 23% more in ELA) and those in the Buffalo Public School District overall (40% more in Math, 30% more in ELA).

Note: New York State test scores are divided into four performance levels that measure whether the child meets the state’s Learning Standards. A Level 3 means the child meets the Learning Standards, and a Level 4 means the child meets the state’s Learning Standards with distinction.