

Research Précis

Edition 10 – 4

Summer 2009

Best Practices: Safe and Drug-free Schools and Communities

Creating a better tomorrow...

Title: High/Scope Perry Preschool Program

Overview:

The *High/Scope Perry Preschool Program* is a framework of educational practices based on early childhood development theories, particularly those of Jean Piaget. It is designed to provide a supportive environment that will lead to the development of independent thinking, initiative, and creativity, thus increasing the chance of higher academic performance as well as adherence to healthy lifestyles in later life.

Target: Children ages 0-4

Extent/Duration of Program: The program consists of daily classroom sessions (two and one-half hours) and weekly home visits to each mother and child (one and one-half hours long) over a 30-week school year.

Program Costs:

- Manual and study guide is \$42.95. *High/Scope Extensions*, a newsletter with tips, curriculum updates, and training strategies, is \$30.95 per year. The series, booklets, and video are \$10 to \$35. Starter materials (one set) are \$26-\$50.
- Training options include one- and two-day workshops, one-week institutes, and multiple-week courses either at High/Scope Foundation headquarters or on site.

For further information, or to order:

High/Scope Educational Research
Foundation
600 N. River St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48198-2898

Phone (information): 734-485-2000 ext. 255
Fax: 734-485-4467

E-mail: kwoodard@highscope.org

Web site: <http://www.highscope.org>

Principles/Approaches/Components: The *High/Scope Perry Preschool Program* is based on the premise that individuals with the skills and attitudes necessary for success—academically and socially—will be more likely to exhibit control over themselves and their surroundings, and less likely to engage in harmful or unhealthy activities throughout life. The program emphasizes daily routine, classroom and playground organization, and teacher-child interaction, and the program components focus on learning through active involvement, developing independence and confidence, systematically planning and doing and reviewing (Plan-Do-Review), and gaining knowledge and skills in content areas including language, creative representation, music, and mathematics.

Evidence-based Effectiveness: A long-term study began in 1962 with the identification of 123 three- to four-year-old African-American children living in poverty and considered at high risk of school failure in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Researchers randomly assigned 58 of the children to a high-quality early care and education setting, while the rest received no preschool program. Researchers studied these same groups of children every year from age 3 to 11. and again at

ages 14, 15, 19, and 27. Though short-term effects throughout the study did clearly indicate a trend in progress, the latest results in 2004 were the most significant—as adults at age 40, those who participated in their early years had higher earnings, were more likely to hold a job, had committed fewer crimes, and were more likely to have graduated from high school. Overall, the study documented a return to society of more than a \$17 for every tax dollar invested in the early care and education program.

Safe and Drug-free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA) connections:

A.ii - Activities that promote a sense of individual responsibility.

National Standards connections:

Kindergarten through Grade 12

Health Education Standard 7 – Students will demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or reduce health risks.

National Health Education Standards, Second Edition: Achieving Excellence. American Cancer Society, 2007.

Family and Consumer Sciences, Reasoning for Action: Comprehensive Standard – Use reasoning processes, individually and collaboratively, to take responsible action in families, workplaces, and communities.

National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences Education, Second Edition. National Association of State Administrators of Family and Consumer Sciences, 2008.

Recognition and additional reports:

The following organizations/institutions have recognized the *High/Scope Perry Preschool Program*. The organizations are in alphabetical order and the status of the recognition is in parentheses.

Adults and Children Together (ACT) Against Violence (Model Program)
Child Magazine (Top Ten Preschool in America)
National Mental Health Association (Lela Rowland Prevention Award)
Promising Practices Network (Proven Program)
SAMHSA (Model Program)

GENERAL NOTES: The intent of the above synthesis and correlations is to assist teachers and school administrators dedicated to using best practices to reduce violence and substance abuse among students. To our knowledge, the information was current upon publication. However, details pertaining to status of program recognition, research and findings, costs, and contact information are subject to change.

Correlations to the Safe and Drug-free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA) federally approved activities and to national education standards have been limited in depth (“standard” level only) and breadth (number of standards and subjects) due to the encompassing nature of many programs that typically qualify as model or exemplary. The correlations listed should not be viewed as exhaustive.

Designed Instruction’s effective SDFS program research series was funded by the United States Department of Education. For information on other effective programs for promoting safe and drug-free schools and communities, visit www.designedinstruction.com/learningleads/effective-sdfs-programs.html

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